FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 MARCH 1985

Lebanon

IDF Operations -- Twenty-one "terrorists" were killed and 40 suspects were arrested when IDF troops raided 3 villages in southern Lebanon early on 21 March, according to Jerusalem radio. Reacting to an incident in which two Lebanese members of a CBS television crew were killed, an IDF spokesman noted that Israeli troops do not fire on civilians, but that journalists in areas where armed "terrorists" are encountered run the risk of getting hurt, Jerusalem television reported. The IDF withdrew from the Lebanese villages later in the evening leaving behind "horrible destruction," Beirut radio related.

Israeli Withdrawal — All IDF soldiers will be out of Lebanon and deployed along the international border by mid-May at the latest since Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has guaranteed the necessary Cabinet majority to implement the last stage of the withdrawal, the Tel Aviv paper *HA'ARETZ* disclosed. The area evacuated by the IDF will see a different deployment of the army of southern Lebanon based on a new "civilian guard" tactic, the paper noted.

Sidon Clashes — The Lebanese Forces' Executive Committee, in a statement broadcast by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, acknowledged that responsibility for security in Sidon belongs to the Lebanese Army and noted that the Lebanese Forces have withdrawn from the Sidon area.

Beirut Kidnapping — A French Embassy spokesman confirmed that the French vice consul was kidnapped in West Beirut on 22 March, AFP reported.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi military communique, carried by INA, stated that units of Iraq's III Army Corps launched two attacks on Iranian positions on 19 and 21 March "destroying" Iranian forces and resolving the situation in favor of the Iraqi forces "in their new positions." Iranian losses during the two attacks amounted to 425 killed and a large number of wounded, according to Voice of the Masses radio. Meanwhile, an Iranian military communique cited by Tehran radio announced that an Iraqi MIG aircraft was shot down by an Iranian plane in the western region of Iran on 21 March. The radio also denied an INA report that an Iraqi plane shot down an Iranian F-4 plane near Hamadan the same day. In a related development 11 Iraqi planes bombed 25 points in Ilam on 21 March killing 12 people, IRNA confirmed.

Iran-Iraq War Diplomacy

Following a meeting with Iraq's President Saddam Husayn, India's minister of state for external relations contended that Iraq responded "positively" to India's initiative to deescalate the Gulf war, Delhi radio reported. President Husayn told the Indian envoy that he will send a reply to India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi "containing practical and constructive proposals" to facilitate India's mission, according to INA.

Jordanian Airlines' Offices Attacked

The Royal Jordanian Airlines' offices in Athens, Rome, and Nicosia were subjected to terrorist attacks the morning of 21 March, Amman radio reported. In a phone call to AFP, the Palestinian Black September group claimed responsibility for the attacks and maintained that the group's operations "inside and outside" Jordan will continue until the Jordanian Government is "beaten," AFP related.

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Zionist Patrols, Convoys Attacked in S. Lebanon

JN211730 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1620 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] The Palestinian and Lebanese joint forces set off high exlosive, remote-controlled charges under Zionist military patrols and convoys which passed through Ma'ruf, 'Arab Salim, and Al-Bazuriyah in occupied southern Lebanon this morning.

Three Zionist half-tracks were destroyed, two trucks were damaged, and all of their occupants were either killed or wounded.

Using machineguns and rockets, the heroic forces also attacked a military patrol this morning belonging to the militia of the so-called army of southern Lebanon in Jarju' in occupied southern Lebanon.

One military jeep was destroyed, another was damaged, and a number of agent elements were either killed or wounded in the attack.

The Zionist military spokesman admitted the operations, but did not mention his losses or those of his agents.

He said that his forces immediately carried out an extensive search-and-arrest campaign in an attempt to find the heroes of the joint forces.

However, their attempt was in vain.

'Explosive Charge' Detonated in Tel Aviv Bus Depot

JN211713 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1620 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] A Palestinian military spokesman has stated the following:

A group of our valiant revolutionaries operating inside the occupied land, the main arena of conflict, set off an explosive charge in a public bus depot in the center of Tel Aviv this morning.

A number of Zionists were either killed or wounded by the explosion.

The Zionist enemy radio admitted the operation. It said that its forces cordoned off the area, carried out an extensive search and arrested a large number of Palestinian citizens on the pretext of being involved in the operation.

Arabsat Ground Station Operational in July

GF211212 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 20 Mar 85 p 4

[Text] Kuwait's Arabsat ground station should be ready to go into operation in July.

This is just one of several major projects currently being carried out by the Communications Ministry to improve the radio and television, telecommunications and postal services.

The communications minister, Issa Al Mazidi told *AL-ANBA'* newspaper that to increase the efficiency of the postal services a code system was to be introduced which would allow mail to be sorted at the rate of 30,000 letters an hour.

In the telecommunications field, new telephone exchanges are to be opened and light fibre cables are to be used, which have already proved successful in cutting out interference on lines.

And another major project is the introduction of a videotest service through which subscribers will be able to receive information on the stock market, airline schedules and hotel reservations.

GULF AFFAIRS

GULF MIRROR on Khark Island Attack

GF211316 Manama GULF MIRROR in English 21 Mar 85 p 2

[By Philip Moore]

[Text] An Iranian supply ship hit in an Iraqi missile attack at Khark Island yesterday killing six people, was one of the new "boat-for-oil" vessels, shipping sources said. Khark Island was hit by Iraqi jets for apparently the second day running. Iran is reported to have bought about eight new supply boats from a Japanese company in exchange for oil, the sources said. The ships are the start of a wholesale boosting of the fleet in and around Khark.

The Iranians are said to maintain some vessels on leave arrangements at the oil exporting depot but obtaining expatriate manpower is now a major problem. They intend to buy "a fleet of 30 or 40 boats" and crew them with Iranians rather than expatriates, the sources said. But with Iraq stepping up strikes on Khark Island again — there were 11 seamen reportedly killed in an attack on another supply ship recently — the Iranians could be up for a loss of this potential oil revenue, the sources said.

And Reuters said yesterday's attack followed what diplomats in Baghdad described as a "huge explosion in Khark in which 12 people died and at least one oil storage tank was destroyed." They said the blast happened hours after Iraq launched an air raid on Bushehr. But shipping sources said several supertankers were taking on crude oil and operations were normal after the latest strike. But they added that the bulk of Iranian oil was now being moved via Sirri Island and further south. The sources confirmed that Iranian coastal tankers were taking oil down south.

The number of shipowners not prepared to send tankers into Khark had risen drastically. "There are some tankers taking pot luck but most are happier to take on oil south in the Gulf," said one source.

The Iraqis also claimed to have blitzed three more Iranian cities yesterday.

Gulf Insurers Reportedly Invoke War Risk Clause

GF211236 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 21 Mar 85 p 1

[Report by Ahwa al Busa'idi]

[Excerpt] Manama — Reliable sources in Bahrain say Gulf insurers have invoked their war risk clause by issuing a seven-day written notice to international and Gulf airlines not to overfly Iranian and Iraqi airspace.

The notice period will expire on March 26 and war risk coverage for the airlines will cease by which time the insurers expect to be able to review th situation. This follows Iraq's declaration that Iranian airspace is a prohibited war zone with effect from 8 pm Baghdad time on Tuesday, March 19.

News agencies reports quoted an Iraqi military spokesman on Sunday as declaring that "Iranian airspace will be a prohibited zone, and any aerial target will be exposed to danger from Tuesday."

A well-placed insurance source said most aviation and marine insurance policies included a seven-day war risk coverage cancellation notice. He said the majority of the region's airlines policies were handled by local insurance companies but aviation policies were in most cases written in London with Lloyds leader.

KUWAIT

Defense Minister Says State Never To Be Aggressor

GF211232 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 20 Mar 85 p 4

[Text] Kuwait's Defence Minister, Shaykh Salim Sabah al-Salim has said that Kuwait would never take the role of aggressor, and if attacked would use force only as a last resort. He has been quoted as telling senior military personnel that if the country was attacked, Kuwait would use logic as its first line of defence. Political diplomacy would be its reserve tactic and only as a last resort would it use weapons.

Shaykh Salim was addressing the officers who called on him to congratulate him on his reappointment as defence minister.

The Armed Forces magazine, *HUMAT AL-WATAN*, quoted him as saying that he had every confidence and pride in Kuwait's Armed forces, the members of which were highly qualified and displayed all loyalty to the country.

He said the present generation in Kuwait would not squander the country's great tradition, but would pass an even more powerful legacy on to the next generation.

Parliamentarian Wants Curb on Non-Arab Manpower

GF211304 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 20 Mar 85 p 5

[By Nabil Suwaydan]

[Excerpt] Deputy Dr 'Abdallah al-Nafisi yesterday called for curb on non-Arab manpower in Kuwait because the foreign work force constituted a "great danger" to the security and future of the country.

At the first working session of Kuwait's National Assembly yesterday, Dr al-Nafisi said the important subject of population had not been touched in the amiri speech, adding that this had become a "very dangerous and sensitive problem."

He drew attention to the situation in the UAE, where 86 percent of the population was non-Arab expatriate manpower, pointing out this meant merely 14 percent were nationals and other Arabs. "Such a situation may also occur in Kuwait," he added.

OMAN

Sultan Cables Iran's President on Nowruz Celebration

GF211520 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Mar 85

["Text" of cable sent by Omani Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id Al Bu Sa'id to Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i on Nowruz celebrations — date of cable not given]

[Text] His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran:

On the occasion of the Iranian people's celebration of the anniversary of Nowruz, we are delighted to convey to Your Excellency the best wishes and greetings. We wish you good health and wish the friendly Iranian people security and stability.

[Signed] Qabus ibn Sa'id.

QATAR

Norwegian Oil Minister Arrives for Visit

GF211310 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1140 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Doha, 21 Mar (WAKH) — Norwegian Oil and Energy Minister Kaare Kristiansen arrived in Doha from Saudi Arabia at noon today on a visit to Qatar that lasts several days.

SAUDI ARABIA

Turkey's Ozal Concludes Visit, Departs 21 Mar

LD211505 Riyadh SPA in English 1407 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Medina, March 21 SPA — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal left here today for home at the end of a six-day visit to Saudi Arabia during which he had talks with King Fahd, Crown Prince 'Abdallah and senior officials on questions of common concern and ways of boosting bilateral relations in various fields. Ozal and his visiting delegation also visited a number of the Kingdom's industrial projects and installations in Al-Jubayl and Yanbu. He was seen off by Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and senior officials.

Planning Ministry Statement on 5-Year Plan

LD211501 Riyadh SPA in English 1239 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Numbering as received]

[Text] Riyadh, March 21 SPA — The Saudi Planning Ministry today issued a statement on the Kingdom's fourth five-year development plan. The following is the full text of the statement:

1. Main features of the development plans in Saudi Arabia.
2. Socio-economic planning started in Saudi Arabia at the beginning of 1390 H, during which the first development plan was prepared. Most of its programs concentrated on construction of basic infrastructure, public utilities and development of manpower. The second development plan provided the first major thrust to development. It concentrated on provision of modern infrastructure, the diversification of non-oil economy. The third development plan emphasized diversification and focused on the producing sectors such as agriculture, industry and mining and the completion of the associated infrastructure.

Four plan themes:

Although the objectives of the fourth plan are mostly continuations of the principles and policies of the third plan there are four broad themes which characterize and differentiate it from its predecessors. These are:

1. A greater concern with the efficiency of operations and usage of the Kingdom's resources and facilities and with the discovery and development of renewable alternatives;
2. A stronger focus of the diversification strategy on manufacturing, agriculture and finance;
3. A commitment to reduce the number of unskilled and manual foreign workers in the Kingdom by more than half million;
4. A clear and definite emphasis on promoting the private sector's involvement in economic development.

2. Elements of the 4DP:

2.1 Objectives: In its Resolution No 36 dated 24.2.1404 H, the Council of Ministers specified eleven objectives for the fourth plan as follows:

1. To safeguard Islamic values...duly observing, disseminating and confirming Allah's Shari'ah;
2. To defend the faith and the nation, and to uphold the security and social stability of the realm;
3. To form productive citizen-workers by providing them with the tributaries conducive thereunto -- ensuring their livelihood and rewarding them on the basis of their work;
4. To develop human resources thus ensuring a constant supply of manpower and upgrading and improving its efficiency to serve all sectors;
5. To raise culture standards to keep pace with the kingdom's development;
6. To reduce dependence on the production and export of crude oil as the main source of national income;
7. To continue with real structural changes in the Kingdom's economy through continuous transformation to produce a diversified economic base, with emphasis on industry and agriculture;
8. To develop mineral resources and to encourage discovery and utilization thereof;
9. To concentrate on qualitative development through improving and further developing the performance of the utilities and facilities already established during the three development plan periods;
10. To complete the infrastructural projects necessary to achieve overall development;
11. To achieve economic and social integraiton between the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

2.2 Basic strategic principles:

In its previously mentioned resolution, the Council of Ministers specified eight basic strategic principles to achieve the objectives mentioned in the said resolution. They are as follows:

1. Emphasis should be layed on improving the economic productive standards of the services, utilities and products which the government provides for citizen -- both directly (such as education and security services), and indirectly (such as electricity, transport and basic commodities);
2. Adopt policy giving the private sector the opportunity to undertake many of the economic tasks of the government, while the government would not engage in any economic activity undertaken by the private sector;
3. Rationalize the system of direct and indirect subsidies on many goods and services provided by the state;
4. The consideration of economies should predominate in many government investment and expenditure decisions;
5. Continue development of Saudi manpower, through the evaluation of educational and training programmes and curricula as well as by further development or modification of these in conformity with the Islamic Shari'ah, the changing needs of society, and the requirements of the development process;
6. Attention should be given to the development of Saudi society, to the provision of social welfare and health care for all, and to the support given to society's participation in the implementation of the programs of the plan as well as reaping the benefits of development;
7. In order to carry out the second objective the defense and security authorities shall plan their strategy in order to ensure the defence at the nation, and shall submit that strategy to the National Security Council preparatory to presenting it for consideration to the Council of Ministers;
8. Adopt a fiscal policy which keeps the level of expenditure in line with the government revenues through the fourth plan period.

These basic strategic principles include a total of 61 detailed policies which as a whole form a comprehensive policy framework to provide a base for government expenditure and development operations. Most of the policies have a close relationship with each sector, and have been summarized in the following sections. Some of these policies are more applicable to the government agencies and some to the private sector:

Reducing production costs of public services and utilities;

Ensuring that services are appropriate and not excessive, e.g. by limiting specifications for constructing or operation of projects to what is actually required;

Utilizing technology in all public service sectors through mechanization and the use of advanced technology;

Judging the economic feasibility of projects (of all types) by including operational and maintenance costs (including management cost) and not only capital cost;

Developing appropriate administrative organizations to serve the new needs of the community;

Giving the private sector the opportunity to operate, manage, maintain and renovate many of the utilities currently operated by government provided that this result in lower costs, better performance, and employment opportunities for Saudi citizens;

Re-considering some of the prevailing methods, policies and regulations so as to allow the private sector to operate more freely and more flexibly and to assist it in becoming more creative and developed;

Reduce subsidy rate in ways that will rationalize consumption without significantly affecting low income consumers;

All government departments which administer public services should make economic efficiency a fundamental objective by adopting two basic principles. First, the cost of producing such services to the Saudi community should be reduced, and second, the price of such services should not be less than production cost, except in rare areas and with the proviso that the price should be periodically reviewed.

The fourth plan has been prepared at a time of new economic conditions which have been gradually developing since the end of the second plan. These are:

1. Completion of the greater part of the basic infrastructure;
2. Considerable progress made in the diversification of the economy;
3. Increased capabilities and efficiency of Saudi manpower;
4. More efficient government administration;
6. Lower levels of oil revenues;
7. Increased oil production by non-OPEC countries;
8. The world economy began its recovery from the longest economic recession period in its recent history.

4. Planning approach to the 4DP:

The fourth development plan introduces a new planning methodology -- the program approach. It is derived directly from the 8th basic strategic principle. As well as stipulating fiscal balance, this principle includes a policy directing that all authorized projects must comply with development objectives and principles as summarized above.

The "program approach" has introduced certain new emphases in planning government expenditure: on whole programs rather than on individual projects, on structure of expenditure rather than the component items, on responsibility for priorities and proportions than detailed commitments.

The program based method has also introduced other major changes in the planning process and in the allocation of government expenditure for the plan. It provides increased flexibility for the government agencies to select projects within the specific allocations for the program, taking into consideration the objective of the co-ordinating regional development.

5. The role of the private sector during the 4DP:

The 4DP introduces a major change in the respective roles of the government and the private sector. Many of the key goals and objectives of the plan will be achieved through the private sector, in particular great reliance is placed on the private sector to continue the strategy of economic diversification through the development of agriculture, industry and mining, and to improve the efficiency and productivity of existing economic units.

To facilitate this, financial provision has been made within the total 4DP expenditure to support and encourage the private sector to increase its contribution to development.

6. Civilian expenditure during the 4DP:

In light of the Kingdom's recent experience the importance of Saudi Arabia's strategy of diversification away from oil has been underlined. Government expenditure in the 4DP will reinforce this strategy.

The total government expenditure in the 4DP has been determined at SR 1000 billion (in current prices). Of this SR 500 billion is to devoted to development expenditure. The largest share of development expenditure 27.1 percent (SR 135.3 BN) will be allocated to human resources development, economic resources will receive 26.1 percent (SR 130.7 BN), health and social services 17.9 percent (SR 89.7 BN), transport and telecommunications 15.4 percent (SR 76.9 BN) and municipalities and housing 13.5 percent (SR 67.4 BN).

The amount allocated for the economic and human resources and health and social services will be more than the actual spending on these sectors during the 3DP. The percentage increase ranges between 28.9 percent for health and social services and 8.6 percent for economic resources. However, the basic infrastructure allocation will be lower. The reasons for this are first, conformity with the strategic principle that emphasizes development of the producing sectors; second, most of the infrastructure projects are already completed and third it expected that project cost will be reduced through the implementation of programs concerned with the modification of construction specification, reducing the scope of projects and through higher competition in the market.

The number of projects to be implemented over the plan period total 3226 of which 1444 are new, and 1782 under construction and scheduled to be completed during the 4DP period.

The development sectors include natural resources, producing sectors, human resources, social development and basic infrastructure.

Also included are other sectors such as services which although not classified as development sectors support the development sectors.

7. Natural resources:

Natural resources include water, energy (oil), gas and solar energy and minerals. Main objective of the national resources sector:

To meet the present and future water needs of society;

To limit the development of water resources and conserve and rationalize the use of water;

To conserve and manage hydrocarbon resources and so achieve maximum benefits in the long run — develop solar energy as one of the alternative sources of energy in the Kingdom;

Investigate and explore mineral resources to determine occurences in the Kingdom;

Explore and evaluate promising mineral deposits, develop them if economically feasible;

Encourage both the public and private sectors to develop and utilize mineral resources. Main achievements envisaged in natural resources;

Desalination capacity will be increased by 364.4 thousand cubic meters of water per day, and by 603 megawatts of electric power generation. By 1409/10 the total capacity will be 1.8 million cubic meters of water per day and 3,748 megawatts of electricity capacity. Other programs include the implementation of national and regional water plans, regular asessment of water and agricultural policy, definition of maximum pump rates, and the establishment of a new tariff system. Greater emphasis is to be given to developing reclaimed water and surface water for direct use and for recharging aquifers. New supply networks will be constructed to improve access to water by small towns and rural areas;

Establishment of 675 water projects of various sizes in a number of towns and villages throughout the Kingdom. These will include the drilling of 750 wells, the erection of 60 new dams and the installation of 480 pumping units all over the Kingdom;

Completion of the gas gathering and distributing system. Development of four major refineries, bulk storage plants and petroleum pipelines and also the implementation of a new project for hydrogen production through solar energy;

Production of geological maps for the Arabian shield and phanerozoic rocks;

Exploration of 30 gold deposits, 5 silver deposits, 20 copper deposits, 12 tin-tungsten deposits, 12 niobium and 3 chrome/nickel deposits;

The Saudi-Sudanese joint commission will implement pioneer mining projects in Atlantic Deep 2.

Government expenditure on natural resources sector: 4DP:

	SR million	percent
Water	31,789	58
Energy	18,821	34
Mining	4,427	8
Total	55,037	100

7.2 Producing sectors: The non-oil producing sectors include: agriculture, industry, electricity, construction and the royal commission for Jubayl and Yanbu.

Main objectives of the producing sectors:

To realize an acceptable increase in agriculture production using least possible costs and critical water resources;

The improvement of efficiency in the producing and marketing of agriculture products and attracting the private sector to invest in the agriculture sector;

Contribute to the Kingdom's growth of diversification through the continuation of the industrialization programs;

Development and utilization of hydrocarbon and mineral resources to increase the added value of these resources;

Provision of reliable electricity services for all population growth centers;

Conservation of energy and rationalization of electricity consumption;

Improvement of productivity of electric power utilities;

Supporting and encouraging Saudi construction industry,

Increasing the productivity and capabilities of Saudi contractors;

Reducing construction and associated maintenance cost;

Provision of necessary infrastructure for industry and residential communities;

Increasing private sector investment. main achievements envisaged for producting sector;

Projects include: the surveying and classification of 1,250,000 hectares of land, improvement of the irrigation network to cover more than 5,000 hectares, cultivation of 8,000 hectares of pasture, protection of 2.5 million hectares of cultivated land. Veterinary services will be established at Saudi ports for 37.5 million animals and the production of 600,000 tonnes of crops and 800,000 tonnes of fertilizers will be subsidized. Disbursements of SR 350 million of subsidies will be made for the production of dates and palm offshoots. Distribution of 300,000 tonnes of various improved seeds and 250,000 of improved seedlings will be made;

As part of Savic's activities five major projects are scheduled to come on stream during the fourth plan. These are the production of methyl tertiary butyl ether (500,000 tons/yr), budtadiene [128,000 tons/yr), vinyl chloride monomer (300,000 ton/yr).

Other Savic projects under evaluation are polypropylene, propane dehydrogenation, downstream propylene derivities, compound fertilizers, additional ammonia capacity, single cell protein and rolled steel mill with one million tonnes annual capacity.

Programs for other manufacturing are broader and more supportive of the private sector initiatives. New industrial cities will be completed in Medina, Asir, Mecca, Hai'l, Tabuk, Jizan and Najran. A comprehensive industrial extention service and a new small industry loan facility are being evaluated. Greater emphasis is to be given to project identification and investment promotion and a program aimed at promoting manufactured exports is to be introduced that will include an export insurance and supplementary credit scheme. A pre-investment service service is planned which will assist potential investors in the selection of projects and guide them in the procedure for applying for assistance.

The capacity of grain silos will be increased from 955,000 tonnes per year to 1,855,000 tonnes/year capacity, the capacity of flour mills from 748,000 tonnes/year to 979,000 tonnes/year and fodder from 336,000 tonnes year to 480,000 tonnes year;

The electric power network will be expanded to serve about 828,000 new customers, in so doing the long standing goal of full electricfication of the Kingdom will be realized;

Encouragement will be given to construction companies to diversify into new activities, especially servicing and maintenance, through the implementation of the 30 percent rule and opening tendering.

Government expenditure on the producing sector:

	SR million	percent
Electricity	41,932	48
Royal Commission for Jubayl and Yanbu	30,000	35
Agriculture	10,810	12
Industry	4,241	5
Classification of contractors: total expenditure	87,054	100

Service sector: The service sector includes: commercial services, banking and finance, environmental pollution control, specifications and standards and statistical information services. Main objectives of services sector:

To increase the contribution of the private sector in the activities currently undertaken by the government;

To increase the export of Saudi industrial products, and to improve trade relations with other countries particularly with the GCC states;

To maintain high standards of product supply and consumer protection;

To grow in accordance with the requirements and needs of the national economy and to encourage the private capital into domestic investment;

To improve the health, safety, and living conditions of the citizens of the Kingdom through the provision of meteorology and environmental protection services in the Kingdom;

To protect the environment of the Kingdom and its natural resources, from pollution, desertification and environmental deterioration;

To provide precise and reliable statistical data to support planning operation. Principal achievements envisaged for service sectors.

The emphasis of the commercial service program is on ensuring business regulations keep pace with development needs, extending the consumer protection activities and assisting the business community in investment and export promotion initiatives. The financial sector will be also a leading growth sector. Considerable development of the Kingdom's financial structure is to be encouraged, the need for a formal stock exchange examined, and the longer term lending by the commercial banks stimulated. The government credit institutions will provide the following loans during the fourth development plan.

Institution	fourth plan total in SR million
Saudi Arabian Agricultural Bank	10,150
Saudi Credit Bank	1,250
Saudi Industrial Development Fund	7,500
Real Estate Development Fund	21,000
Specialist funding programs	1,500
Public Investment Fund	18,700
Total	60,100

Government expenditure on services sector:

Sector	SR millions	percent
Commercial services	825	1
Banking and finance	60,100	93
Meteorology and environment protection	2,831	4
Standards and specifications	507	1
Information and statistical data	558	1
Total	64,821	100

Social and cultural development:

This sector includes, social, cultural, health services, information, judicial, religious affairs, youth and sports development. Major objectives for social and cultural development sector:

1. To safeguard Islamic values, duly observing, dissemination and confirming God's divine law;
2. To continue providing integrated health services, particularly primary health care and increase coordination and operating efficiency;
3. To expand integrated social development in coordination with other agencies which provide such services and to encourage the participation of the local community in social development;
4. To improve and upgrade cultural levels, guide and orient members of the community to match the development process in the Kingdom.

Major achievements expected for social and cultural development:

About 45 hospitals will be established providing an additional 8,944 beds and increasing the total number of hospitals by the year 1989/90 to approximately 138 with 27,857 beds. Numerous primary health care centres will be established throughout the Kingdom to bring their number to about 2,187 by the year 1989/90 against 1,306 in 1984/85 in addition to about 100 maternal and diagnostic centres will be established in different areas of the country;

Approximately 50 classes for handicraft training will be open as well as 50 benevolent societies of which 20 will be concerned with women. There will be an expansion in pensions and also in social support to accomodate about 95,000 cases. Also 20 new social security offices will be opened;

The surrounding areas of the Holy Mosque at Mecca will be expanded to accomodate about 1.5 million pilgrims. The Prophet's Mosque in Medina will be expanded and renovated. Services provided to pilgrims will be improved.

Government Expenditure on social and cultural development sectors:

Sector	SR million	percent
Health	62.239	57
Judicial and religious sector	18.501	17
Cultural, information and youth	13.617	13
Welfare services	14.280	13
Total	108.637	100

Human resources: The human resources development sector includes general education for boys and girls, higher education and training in other government sectors, private sector manpower development, training program and science and technology. Main objectives:

1. Improving the efficiency and quality of education, and the elimination of the incidence of of illiteracy among Saudi adults;
2. Ensuring that education is in comformity with Islamic values and Allah's shari'ah (God's divine law);
3. Provision of competent manpower required to achieve the objectives of national development;
4. Developing and improving internal training, on-the-job training programs, increasing coordination among training programs under the government supervision, achieving saudization goals in both the public and private sectors, provision of competent cadre for the public sector and the identification of employment opportunities for women in a manner which would not be contrary to Muslim faith;
5. Taking necessary action required for the implementation of proper strategies to increase saudization rate and productive efficiency;
6. Facilitation of the application of science and technology in support of the objectives of long-term development in the Kingdom. Expected main achievements of human resources:

The number of male students in various levels of general education will increase from 914,000 in 1404/1405 to 1,168,000 in 1409/1410. The number of female students in general education will increase from 655,000 in 1404/1405 to 937,000 in 1409/1410. The number of total students will increase from 1,569,000 at the beginning of 4DP to 2,105,000 at the end of 4DP;

The number of male students in higher education will increase from 51,000 in 1404/05 to more than 69,000 in 1409/10. The number of female students in higher education will increase from 29,000 in 1404/05 to more than 39,000 in 1409/10. The total number of students will increase from approximately 80,000 at the beginning of the 4DP to more than 108,000 by the end;

The number of male graduates from secondary level will increase from a 3DP total of 70,076 to approximately 109,500 during the 4DP. The total number of graduates of secondary levels will increase from a 3DP total of 132,284 to approximately 215,000 during the 4DP;

The number of male graduates from higher education will increase from a 3DP total of 41,000 to approximately 60,000 during the 4DP;

The number of enrolments at technical education schools will increase from 12,000 in 1404/1405 to 16,000 in 1409/1410, and the number of graduates from technical education will increase from approximately 5,239 to 18,942 by 1405/1406. The number of enrolments at vocational training centres will also increase from 37,576 to 43,255 during the 4DP.

Government expenditures on human resources: 4DP

	SR million	percent
General Education	85,232	62
Higher education	40,291	30
Technical education and vocational training	6,586	5

Institute of public administration	1,053	1
Manpower development	1,195	1
Science and technology	1,816	1
Total expenditures on human resources	136,173	100

7.6 Physical infrastructure sector include transport facilities, postal service, telecommunications, housing, municipal and public works services. The objectives of infrastructure: Expansion as necessary to cope with the gradual increase in demand on transport services:

Greater equality in the provision of physical infrastructure and municipal services throughout the Kingdom, increased efficiency of operation and improvements in services in villages and urban areas;

Improving the quality of housing and efficient utilization of the existing housing stock;

Supporting private sector housing construction through the real estate development fund;

Expansion of an improving of postal services and telecommunications particularly in areas where coverage is yet to be fully completed.

Expected main achievements:

The first stage of the new international airport at Zahran will be completed by the end of 1910 [as received]. New roads will be constructed to bring the total length of road network to 116,000 km, which will comprise 20,000 km main roads, 15,000 km secondary and feeder roads and 81,000 km of rural roads;

The postal service will be expanded to cover a further 1200 villages, and local telephone networks will be enlarged to give 250,000 new subscribers access to installed exchanged capacity. Network switching capacity will be increased to 300,000 lines;

The following municipal projects will be implemented: 185 water projects, 78 sewage, 11 water drainage, 57 flood protection, 47 markets, 152 public utilities, 341 urban streets, 42 governmental buildings, 6 environmental improvements, 24 planning studies, 11 training, 215 other municipal projects.

Government expenditure on physical infrastructure:

	SR million	percent
Transport	45,851	36
Postal service and telecommunications	28,581	19
Municipal and public works	63,500	42
Housing	3,828	3
Total of physical infrastructure	150,760	100

8. Labor force and GDP in 4DP:

8.1 Labor force: The plan target is to increase productivity by 4 percent per annum. As a result the total civilian labor force will decline by approximately 1 percent leading to a reduction in employment of 855,000 compared to employment in 1404/05. Simultaneously, the target growth in non-oil economy of 2.9 percent per annum will create new employment opportunities for 630,000. Moreover, the numbers of Saudis in the work force will increase by 374,777 during the 4DP. As a result, there will be an overall reduction in non-Saudi manpower of 600,000.

8.2 GDP: It is expected as a result of following the strategy approved by the Council of Ministers that GDP will grow at annual average rate of 4 percent P.A. The absolute value will increase from SR 284,1 billion in 1404/5 to SR 354,9 billion in 1409/10. (constant 1399/1400 prices). The oil sector will grow at 5.6 percent P.A. and non-oil sector at rate of 2.9 percent P.A.

The most important sectors expected to contribute to this growth are industry which is expected to grow at (15.5 percent per year), finance and business services (9 percent per year), agriculture (6 percent per year).

Growth in other sectors will be lower, construction 2.8 percent P.A., commercial services 2.5 percent per annum, oil and gas 3.8 percent per annum. In real estate and government there will be no growth.

Nonetheless, although these growth rates are lower, they do approximate to those achieved in the 3DP and remain high by world standards.

UAE

Dubai Police Hold Arab in Aircraft Bombing Plot

GF211310 Manama GULF MIRROR in English 21 Mar 85 p 5

[Text] Dubai police are still holding an unidentified Arab youth who, they say, has "admitted" planning to blow up a Jordanian Tristar airline with 107 people on board ... himself included.

The 18-year-old was arrested after there had been a small explosion in one of the luggage compartments aboard the plane when it was being unloaded at Dubai airport on Saturday, March 9.

Police said that only part of a 1.35 kg dynamite charge had exploded, causing no damage to the Tristar or injuring any passengers or porters. Police said that the charge had been timed to explode while the plane was in mid-air between Karachi and Amman in Jordan.

One passenger on board the plane was the PLO's representative in Japan, 'Abd al-Mun'im, who was flying to visit his family in Amman.

An official statement issued by the Emirates News Agency WAM, said that the youth had "admitted" being recruited in an Arab country.

Police have so far refused to name the youth or identify his nationality and neither have they commented upon whether or not he knew that the dynamite was primed to explode while he was himself on board.

YAR

Presidential Decrees Name New Officials

GF220752 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Summary] Presidential decrees issued yesterday appointed the following:

Deputy prime minister and minister of development:
Brother Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar

Head of the central auditing and accountancy organ:
Brother 'Abd al-Salam Husayn al-'Anzi

Governor of the Yemeni Central Bank:
Engineer Muhammad Ahmad al-Junayd

Deputy governor of the Yemeni Central Bank;
Brother 'Abdallah al-Sanabani

Adviser to the prime minister:
Brother Salih al-Jamali

Governor of Ibb Province:
Brother Colonel Yahya Muhammad al-Mutawakkil

Governor of Dhamar Province:
Brother Colonel Yahya Muslih Mahdi

Governor of Al-Hudaydah Province:
Brother 'Abd al-Rahman Muhammad 'Ali 'Uthman

Chairman of the board of directors of the Yemeni Construction Bank:
Brother Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman al-Samawi

Deputy minister of social affairs and labor:
Brother 'Abd al-Hamid Sayf al-Haddi

Under secretary at the Ministry of Awqaf and Guidance:
Brother 'Afif al-Barakani

Under secretary at the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reform for the Organization and Administration Sector:
Brother Husayn Muhammad al-Ahyiri

Assistant under secretary at the Ministry of Economy and Industry:
Brother Husayn 'Abdallah [name indistinct]

Al-Baz Interviewed on Mubarak U.S. Visit

PM211942 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
22 Mar 85 pp 22-24

[Interview with Usamah al-Baz, presidential adviser for political affairs and Foreign Ministry first under secretary, by Raghidah Dirgham in Washington — date not given]

[Excerpts] *AL-HAWADITH*: The stress during President Mubarak's visit to the United States was on U.S. dialogue with a Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation, but U.S. officials say that in addition to this idea you also submitted several other proposals.

Al-Baz: The stress was on the following — that an Arab move was initiated with the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and that the United States, Israel, Europe, and the entire world should respond to that move. It had seemed to us that the United States would just sit back in its comfortable chair and say that the Arabs were not sufficiently active, that Israel would make no move whatsoever, and that with time the Jordanian-Palestinian step would become nothing more than a piece of paper added to the thick file of resolutions and documents. That is why we began thinking about formulas for imposing the Arab move on the United States.

AL-HAWADITH: What formulas?

Al-Baz: One formula was that a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation should be invited to Washington or to any Arab capital for talks with the U.S. Administration. The U.S. Administration asked, todiscuss what? We said, the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement.

They asked why there should be such a delegation. We said, for preparatory negotiations. They asked why not have direct negotiations? We said, because it is impossible at present because Israel refuses to negotiate with the PLO and because the PLO has no guarantee or confirmation that it would achieve anything by joining such negotiations, unless the U.S. becomes sympathetic to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. In the absence of such sympathy the PLO cannot risk meeting with the Israelis and coming out with nothing.

AL-HAWADITH: Doesn't the United States refuse to sympathize with the PLO unless the latter meets U.S. conditions?

Al-Baz: They have not refused. We have managed to convince them that it would be dangerous to leave things as they are. Some [Americans] believe that time will solve the problem, but we explained that, on the contrary, time would destroy the chances of a settlement and plunge us into a circle of military and semimilitary confrontations and attrition operations similar to what is happening in the Gulf.

One of the other formulas we proposed was that the foreign ministers of certain states should hold a preparatory session. What are these states? Well that is a point on which agreement could be reached.

AL-HAWADITH: Certain states, not the parties concerned?

Al-Baz: No, not the parties concerned. Let us assume that the United States wants to inquire about the agreement; it would naturally ask Jordan or Egypt. At a later stage the dialogue with the United States could perhaps include as many Arab foreign ministers as possible. The United States is apprehensive about two main things — the first it is worried about being dragged into any kind of talks with the PLO, about slipping into such a situation; second it is worried that these contacts and negotiations might turn out to be an alternative to direct negotiations between the Arabs and Israel.

Before the visit, the Americans were of the opinion that it would be better if the United States did not make any moves because of the lack of sufficient moves by the other parties. They argued that the United States could only act to the degree that the parties were willing to act. Parties here means Israel and Jordan basically, and then Egypt and the moderate Palestinians. That theory no longer stands because we have agreed with the United States that if we waited for the parties to agree to move, there would be no need for the United States.

AL-HAWADITH: You used the word "agreed." What did you actually agree upon?

Al-Baz: We agreed with the United States that it is important to initiate moves without waiting for all the parties to approve. We believe that the Americans are about to play a bigger and more active role than they were prepared to play before. In their moves they will probe the attitudes of the other parties. I do not want to give the impression that they will move regardless of the attitudes of the other parties. The attitudes of the other parties, especially Israel, will be taken into consideration. The Israeli position is one of the main considerations in the U.S. position, if not the main consideration.

AL-HAWADITH: You have visited Israel and discussed the Egyptian ideas with Israeli officials. What is your impression of Israel's willingness to respond to your proposals?

Al-Baz: Naturally Israel is not expected to approve of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, because that agreement is an Arab internal step and its aim is to pave the way for an Arab strategy for confronting Israel and, to some extent, the United States. The Israeli concern clearly stems from the following: First of all, public opinion in Israel is divided as to how Israel should react to this step. Second, Israel wants to be present in any dialogue from the very beginning. The Israelis fear U.S.-Arab contacts.

We maintain that there must be contacts between the United States and the Arabs in which basically Jordan and the Palestinians should participate, perhaps joined later by the Egyptians. The aim of the contacts is to explain and clarify the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and explain the Arab willingness to negotiate. The Arab side also wants to convince the Americans that the PLO is genuinely interested in establishing peace and does not advocate terrorism and violence, and that the United States should move closer to self-determination for the Palestinian people during the negotiations.

The Israelis are against any negotiations that exclude them for two reasons — first, the fear that such negotiations might lead to negotiations between the United States and the PLO; second, the Israelis believe that if a dialogue is held between the Arabs and the United States in isolation from Israel that dialogue might turn into substantial negotiations on the core of the matter and

not just on clarification of views. What they fear most is U.S.-Arab negotiations in which the Arabs would try to obtain U.S. promises or commitments to a certain attitude toward the Arabs.

AL-HAWADITH: President Mubarak has said that if the United States did not commence dialogue with the Palestinians, the Palestinians would "resort to terrorist operations."
Al-Baz: There are dangers other than terrorism. We discussed these dangers during our talks with the Americans, but we do not want to talk about them publicly because such talk is more effective when done quietly. What is important is that they realize that there are risks involved. Do not forget that they have recently discovered, from what is happening in Lebanon, that their assessment of the risks and their knowledge of the region's circumstances and people's mentality was not in harmony with the truth. Neither Israel nor the United States had expected such ferocious resistance to the Israeli occupation from the people of southern Lebanon. That is not just a new development; it is a quantitative development not a qualitative one. In other words it is a new addition to the equation. The United States cannot ignore that development and wait until the Arabs make a move again.

AL-HAWADITH: What did the Americans say to that?
Al-Baz: They said that they would study our proposals. We suggested several alternatives to them. There are other alternatives, but we wish to keep them secret for the time being. They said that they would discuss these alternatives in the coming days and weeks and they they would contact us, Jordan, and other Arab sides with the aim of formulating some concept. Their main wish is that Israel is not given the impression that the United States is plotting with the Arabs behind Israel's back or that it wants to conclude a deal with the Arabs against Israel.

AL-HAWADITH: What was the turning point that made the United States agree to study your proposals instead of waiting for the various parties to move?
Al-Baz: From what Egypt said, the Americans realized that U.S. inaction and nonresponse would result in many dangers for the United States. We explained to them that the position we were talking about was supported by the main Arab states and that they would hear this from the states important to them and where they have political interests.

AL-HAWADITH: Including the Gulf states?
Al-Baz: Some Gulf states, I cannot name any.

AL-HAWADITH: Is there coordination with some Gulf states?
Al-Baz: There is no coordination, but there is parallel movement at least.

AL-HAWADITH: What Arab state is capable of taking steps to threaten U.S. interests?
Al-Baz: Let us say that we have strength in the Arab position in the face of the United States and others. The Arabs still possess strong cards which have not yet been used.

AL-HAWADITH: What cards?
Al-Baz: There are several cards within the context of Arab relations with the United States and with the rest of the world. We must differentiate between pressure and threats on the one hand and warnings to the United States and its competitors on the other.

AL-HAWADITH: Are you referring to the Soviet Union? Do you mean that the danger is that the Arab states might be compelled to turn to the Soviet Union?
Al-Baz: It is not as simple as that. It is no longer possible to play one superpower against another. It must be clear to the states we deal with, however, and particularly the superpowers, that there are alternatives and options open to us, and that we can balance our relations with these states on the basis of the way they treat us. Furthermore, there is such a thing as the natural consequences of the attitudes of states. We must explain the negative consequences of a certain policy or attitude.

AL-HAWADITH: Let us be more specific. What means of warning do the Arab states have, what Arab state is willing to use them, and what U.S. interests are threatened by the possibility of Arab governments taking certain measures?
Al-Baz: The U.S. interests in the region would be affected and would be the target of many threats.

AL-HAWADITH: So the only present danger is the danger of violence. You talk to the Americans about their fear of terrorist threats.
Al-Baz: I cannot threaten the United States with terrorism, but the United States knows that the trend of extremism would increase. I mean extremism on both sides of the Arab-Israeli borders.

AL-HAWADITH: You have spoken of two dangers — extremism and competition.

Al-Baz: The United States enjoys a distinguished position and special relations with many Arab states. It would be difficult for these states to maintain these relations in the face of U.S. policies. They would certainly turn to other states, not only the Soviet Union, and give them the special status now enjoyed by the United States. I am not saying that there are indications that this trend is an existing reality, but one should not assume that the present state of affairs will continue. The region is going through a stage of change, and things cannot remain the same in every country. There are conflicts.

We tell the Americans that leaving the problem in a state of stagnation would lead to a deterioration in the conditions prevailing in the region to such an extent that the United States would not be able to preserve its interests.

AL-HAWADITH: You have talked to the Americans about what you called the Shi'ite threat. President Mubarak spoke about the spread of Shi'ite ideas in such a way as to, in his words, threaten Israel and its neighbors. Why?
Al-Baz: No, we do not talk about a Shi'ite threat. Some sectors of the media have misunderstood. There is no such talk. Egypt is the last state to differentiate between Shi'ites and Sunnis. We talk about Iran's exploitation of the Shi'ite communities in some Arab states and its attempt to use them to serve its objectives, which constitute a threat to the regimes of these states. As regards Israel, it is now facing a real challenge in southern

Lebanon posed by the southerners who are Shi'ites. We do not call that a threat.

AL-HAWADITH: Why was Lebanon absent from Presidnet Mubarak's statements in Washington? While he was there the United States cast its veto against the Lebanese draft resolution at the Security Council and Israel was implementing its "iron first" policy in southern Lebanon.
Al-Baz: President Mubarak spent half of his time talking about the Lebanese problem not only in his own name, but also on behalf of Lebanon. We had received a message from Lebanon and we conveyed it quietly to the U.S. President. We also warned the U.S. Administration against casting its veto.

AL-HAWADITH: According to senior Americans, your view is that direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan with Palestinian participation is the only way to achieve peace.
Al-Baz: American and other circles are playing with words. We say that we agree to direct negotiations and that an international conference is one form of direct negotiations in the sense that the parties would be sitting around a table and the negotiations would not be done through a third party.

AL-HAWADITH: "Direct negotiations" and "peace process" are Camp David expressions. Where is the playing with words?

Al-Baz: There has been much distortion of these expressions which are now coined like currency. We do not approve of the imposition of the U.S. method of negotiations on any Arab side, be it Syria, the PLO, or any other side.

AL-HAWADITH: Does you action strategy for the reactivation of the peace efforts have room for a Syrian role?
Al-Baz: Of course, Syria must have a role, and the question of the Golan Heights must be resolved, otherwise the peace process would be incomplete. We do not agree to the exclusion of the Syrian role.

AL-HAWADITH: I am asking about the point where there would be a Syrian dimension in the chain of moves.
Al-Baz: There is no Syrian role or dimension in the present moves because Syria is not willing and does not try to talk about what it wants. The Syrian role begins when Syrian interest begins.

AL-HAWADITH: Your moves are aimed at the United States. For example, they do not address but rather ignore the Soviet Union.
Al-Baz: We do not at all want to exclude the Soviet Union from the settlement efforts, but there are urgent matters which have to be resolved, matters which the United States can influence most. The fact that the Jordanian-Palestinian move is aimed at the United States does not mean that the Arab side is proceeding within the context of a U.S. peace. The Arab side believes that it is in its interest at this stage to hold a dialogue with the United States. The Arab side has no problems with the Soviet attitude toward the Arab cause. So that leaves the American side, without which the equation would be incomplete.

AL-HAWADTH: But Egypt has presented itself to the United States as a strategic partner. In an official memorandum you made a point of projecting Egypt's strategic importance to the United States.
Al-Baz: That memorandum was presented by the office leading the Egyptian lobby in the United States. We did not send an official memorandum from the Egyptian Government to the U.S. Government. U.S.-Egyptian relations are relations of friendship and cooperation, but in our minds there is a fundamental reservation — we are not U.S. allies. We are allies of the Arab states and Africa.

AL-HAWADITH: That does not negate the fact that you projected Egypt's strategic importance to the Americans and portrayed that as something which serves U.S. interests.
Al-Baz: That is lobby talk. It is natural that the lobby office would exaggerate the relations. The United States knows very well that we refused to give it facilities in the Ra's Banas port because such facilities would have turned it into a quasi-base.

AL-HAWADITH: But in his interview with *THE WASHINGTON POST* President Mubarak said that the only obstacle in the way of such a base is the U.S. insistence that the construction should be done by U.S. companies.
Al-Baz: What the reporter attributed to President Mubarak in *THE WASHINGTON POST* is not true.

AL-HAWADITH: The Americans told you that they do not accept the "half peace" which characterizes your relations with Israel. U.S. officials such as Secretary of State Shultz treated you harshly and....
Al-Baz: Shultz was much kinder this time than before. In the past he used to act on the basis that the region means nothing to the United States and that its regimes and states are unreliable and therefore there is no need for a U.S. move. His feelings were of someone who was closed in and uninterested, but not this time.

AL-HAWADITH: The Americans view their relations with you on the basis of your relations with Israel and they have pointed out that the aid would....
Al-Baz: Our relations with Israel are our own affair and no one else's. We have succeeded in upholding and imposing this principle. Our relations with Israel are a matter between us and Israel, not between us and the United States. Instead of asking us about Egypt's ambassador to Israel, the Americans should ask themselves what have they done to make Egyptian-Israeli peace a peace likely to develop into a real and meaningful peace.

AL-JUMHURIYAH on U.S. Decision on Arms to Jordan

NC220653 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0520 GMT 22 Mar 85

[From the press review]

[Text] Regarding the decision by the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Relations Subcommittee that links the shipment of sophisticated weapons to Jordan with the latter's recognition of Israel and holding direct negotiations with it, *AL-JUMHURIYAH* affirms editorially that all of this means that the Zionist lobby in the Congress and in the U.S. Administration has the primary goal of serving Israel's interest, even if this contravenes U.S. interests.

AL-JUMHURIYAH writes that the congressional subcommittee made its decision at a time when Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri is visiting Washington for talks with U.S. officials on the peace process in the Middle East. The subcommittee's decision is a clear attempt to foil the visit and obstruct efforts being made to stimulate the peace process in the area. The paper writes that such practices will negatively affect U.S. relations with other nations, the interests and legitimate rights of which run counter to the Zionist lobby's practices in Congress.

Cairo Terms Libya's Leader 'Psychotic'

NC211543 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Bahiy al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "The Libyan Regime Sides With Iran Against Iraq"]

[Text] Libya's mass media have vehemently attacked the Iraqi people, Armed Forces, and government, holding them responsible for the battle at Hawr Al-Hawizah against the Iranian forces. Libyan television said that Saddam Husayn is completely responsible for the results of this battle, which claimed the lives of thousands of soldiers.

We don't think that even Iran itself would have given voice to the kind of words leveled against Iraq by the head of the Libyan regime. As is well known, Iran dispatched eight military divisions deep into Iraq, in an effort to cross the Tigris and isolate Basra. As is also known, Iran had prepared for this offensive for a long time. Indeed, it announced that this offensive would be the painful blow that would overthrow President Saddam Husayn. However, Iraqi forces managed to check and then crush the Iranian offensive.

Were the Iraqi forces supposed to pull back and allow the forces belonging to the mullahs and ayatollahs to occupy Arab land, simply to please the desert prophet? Should President Saddam Husayn have given up and surrendered, simply to achieve the dreams and aspirations of the reviver of the Arab renaissance and the creator of a theory providing for the creation of a Libyan-Iranian-Syrian union to control the Arab east and for the appointment of a revolutionary leadership that would seek to liberate Arab land through violence?

No one has ever bargained with the cause of Arab struggle as has the man from Libya. The liberation of Arab land is a sacred thing, for which thousands of martyrs have sacrificed blood, for the sake of God and the homeland. This cause is too serious to be dealt with by a psychotic, who would commit any act rejected by humanity for no other reason than megalomania.

We choose not to mention the name of the head of the Libyan regime when we speak of the Arab war in which the sons of Iraq are shedding their blood in defense of the dignity of the homeland and of Arabism. However, this regime's behavior requires that the Arabs reconsider every political action, to ensure that the Arab homeland is not beset by catastrophe.

The claims of the man from Libya that he is revolutionary and zealous about Arabism are made in callous disregard of the dignity of Arabs, wherever they may be. In addition, his irresponsible statements and announced support for international terrorism strike at the honor of devout Arabs.

The man from Libya has attacked all Arab and Muslim leaders, accusing them of incompetence. Their silence has made him think that he can attack all values. His attacks on the Arabs can only come from an insane grudge-bearer. We don't think that anyone will forget the shameful stand he took during the glorious October war, when he attacked the men of October and loudly claimed that they were defeated by the Israeli forces. The man from Libya is now attacking the Iraqi regime because it defended the honor of its land and crushed eight Iranian divisions, which left behind tens of thousands of prisoners, wounded, and dead. The man from Libya has loudly announced that he will not betray the Iranian revolution because it was he who created this revolution. Because he made the Iranian revolution and trained the president of Iran in his revolutionary school, all Arabs should bow their heads and agree to Libyan custodianship. When the man from Libya sensed that the truly devout Arab leaders were moving toward the reacquisition of the Arab right without paying attention to his and other vile voices, he threatened to assassinate all of the Arab leaders.

The sick ideas pursued by the man from Libya, in the mistaken belief that they are the road to salvation, are expressed in his *Green Book*. They remind us of Hitler's book *Mein Kampf*, which was his guide for World War II, which left millions of people dead and imposed a grotesque nightmare on the world for many years. Unfortunately, the madness of the young is always the most dangerous kind of insanity.

Visit of Indian Envoy to Baghdad Detailed

Delivers Message to Saddam

JN211157 Baghdad INA Arabic 1105 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Mar (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi concerning an Indian initiative to end the war between Iraq and Iran. The message was conveyed by the special Indian envoy, Khurshid Alam Khan, minister of state for foreign affairs, when the president received him here today. President Saddam Husayn affirmed to the Indian prime minister's envoy Iraq's firm position on reaching a just and comprehensive peaceful solution to the conflict in accordance with the principles of international law and on the basis of respect for sovereignty and noninterference in internal affairs. The president expressed Iraq's readiness to sincerely and earnestly respond to any initiative that contains all the necessary elements for reaching a just and comprehensive peaceful solution to the conflict.

President Saddam Husayn told the Indian envoy that he will send an immediate written reply to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi containing practical and constructive proposals to facilitate the Indian prime minister's mission.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Minister Alam Khan arrived here last night at the head of a delegation. Immediately upon his arrival, he held a meeting with Tariq 'Aziz in the presence of senior Foreign Ministry officials and the Indian delegation.

Receives Message for Gandhi

JN212127 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has sent a written message to Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in reply to the message his excellency received this morning. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, handed the president's message to Khurshid Alam Khan, Indian minister of state for foreign affairs and Gandhi's envoy, when he received him this evening. In his message to Gandhi, the president affirmed Iraq's firm stand in achieving a just, comprehensive settlement to the Iraq-Iran conflict in accordance with the principles of international law and on the basis of respect for sovereignty and noninterference in internal affairs.

Ends Visit, Departs

JN211837 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1802 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Mar (INA) — Khurshid Alam Khan, Indian minister of state for foreign affairs, and his delegation left Baghdad today after a brief visit to Iraq. The Indian official delivered a written message from Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to President Saddam Husayn on the Iraqi-Iranian war. The Indian minister also held talks with Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on Iraqi-Iranian war developments and the threats its continuation poses to world peace and security.

Comments on Positive Response

BK220545 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Iraq has responded positively to an initiative of India aimed at de-escalating the Gulf war. This was stated by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, who led a high-level Indian delegation to Baghdad. He told our Gulf correspondent, Prem Chand Arya, at Dubayy International Airport that President Saddam Husayn will be sending a detailed reply to the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. The prime minister's message was delivered by the minister during his talks with the Iraqi president. Mr Khurshid Alam Khan said India is aiming at sectoral or limited peace by way of halt to attacks on civilian targets.

In reply to a question, the minister told our correspondent that the delegation will be visiting Tehran at an appropriate time. The Indian delegation is leaving Dubayy for Delhi today.

MENA: Saddam Says Nation 'Ready To Stop the War'

NC220804 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0743 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA) — Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has informed President Husni Mubarak that Iraq is ready to stop the war once and for all and not to just stop shelling cities. Iraq, however, refuses to stop the war partially. This was reported in Cairo in *AL-AHRAM*'s Friday issue. The paper says that Iran earlier repeatedly asked for suspension of the war only to take a breather and not to reach a final settlement to stop the war between the two countries.

'Intensifying' War Delays 'Aziz Trip to Japan

OW210623 Tokyo KYODO in English 0623 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Tokyo, March 21 KYODO — Tariq 'Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will visit Japan in early April for talks with Japanese Government leaders, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

The Japanese visit by the Iraqi Government leader, originally planned for later this month, was postponed due to the intensifying Iran-Iraq war and the United Nations moves toward a truce, ministry officials said. Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe are expected to urge Iraq to try not to exacerbate the Persian Gulf war, the officials said.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iran

Iranian Losses Detailed

JN211145 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Mar (INA) — Iraqi press reports have confirmed that a large number of Iranian commanders have been killed in the recent Iranian offensive on Hawr al-Hawizah. *AL-QADISIYAH*, a daily political and military newspaper, says that most of those commanders were killed in the Al-Rawtah and ('Ujarid) region, which witnessed the most battles. The dead

include Colonel Khalili, who commanded one of the divisions participating in this offensive, and the commander of the 55th Paratroop Brigade, which was completely wiped out. The paper cites its team to the battle area as saying that they saw the Iranian commanders' burned-out vehicles. Iraqi field commanders said the Iranian forces' losses in this offensive as announced by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command were the result of the actual count of the bodies left behind on dry land west of Hawr al-Hawizah. Therefore, the overall losses are estimated at three times the figure announced by the military communiques throughout the 7-day offensive, before it was completely destroyed.

The press team noted that the number of Iranian bodies floating in the marsh waters has doubled after the water has pushed them closer to dry land, and that these bodies covered large areas of Hawr al-Hawizah. The team added that during the last 48 hours the Iraqi forces have found various types of weapons and hardware left in the battlefield by Iranian forces. The paper said more than 15 trucks began to evacuate the spoils found opposite one position. It adds that the command of the forces east of Tigris has decided to hold a comprehensive exhibition of these spoils shortly.

Commenting on the first days of the battle, the paper says that the Iranian enemy was forced to send additional concentrations to the battlefield, along a front of well over 45 km, after the first waves of its concentrations were wiped out. This, it adds, gave the Iraqi forces a chance to deal violent blows to the Iranian forces and to inflict incalculable losses on them.

Communique No 1,779

JN211740 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Communique No 1,779 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 21 March 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Your brave Armed Forces are continuing their heroic defense of the beloved Iraqi homeland and the dignity and pride of the Iraqi people. They are directing daily strikes at the criminal enemy, destroying its vital targets deep inside its territory.

The following is a summary of operations for last night and today:

1. While carrying out their combat missions deep inside Iran last night, our planes spotted an enemy F-5 plane. Directing their heavy fire at the plane, our eagles shot it down north of Sanandaj at 1918 [1618 GMT]. They returned with their planes, safe and triumphant.

At 1050 today, and while carrying out their combat missions in enemy airspace, our eagles saw an enemy F-4 plane. They directed their missiles at it and shot it down near Hamadan. They returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. In order to punish the Iranian regime for its insistence on the policy of war and aggression and its crimes against our people, land, and cities, our Air Force carried out a series of raids on selected targets in the cities of Tabriz, Hamadan, and Dezful at 2230 yesterday. After accurately carrying out their duties, our planes returned, safe and triumphant.

3. Our Air Force continued to pursue enemy remnants, inflicting on them painful blows and destroying their positions and equipment in the East Tigris sector. Our planes carried out 149 combat missions today and returned safely to base, praise be to God.

4. Our helicopter gunships continued their powerful attacks on enemy positions and troop concentrations. They destroyed three enemy boats, killing their occupants, and destroying one 57mm antiaircraft gun and one medium machinegun. Our helicopters returned safe and triumphant after carrying out 44 combat missions east of Tigris.

5. Sighting 2 enemy boats carrying personnel east of Basra, one of our forward units opened artillery and mortar fire, destroying the boat and killing 20 enemy personnel.

6. Two observation posts and one infantry position were destroyed, one hardware stockpile was burned, and three enemy soldiers were killed in the Central sector.

7. Sighting an enemy column of 18 vehicles east of Basra, one of our forward units opened artillery and mortar fire, destroying most of them. Other units in the same sector used artillery and mortars to pound enemy positions, inflicting a number of casualties and destroying three infantry positions and one machinegun emplacement, killing their occupants.

8. The enemy shelled Basra, Khanaqin, and Mandali with heavy artillery.

9. A number of Iranian civilians sought refuge with our forces on the front. They were safely evacuated to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 March 1985

III Army Corps Victories

JN211812 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1749 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

In addition to what was reported in our Communique No 1,778, issued this morning, 21 March, on the glorious victories of the III Army Corps led by Staff Major General Mahir 'Abd al-Rashid, these forces have also achieved the following:

1. The heroic Al-Husayn forces led by Staff Brigadier General Yasin 'Umar 'Ali, supported by the heroic 49th Brigade led by Staff Lieutenant Colonel Sami 'Abbas Najm, were able to occupy 1.5 square kilometers of the positions where the defeated enemy had been stationed.

2. The Qutaybah forces, led by Staff Brigadier General Talal Muhammad Muhammad Salih [name as heard] and supported by the 601st Brigade led by Colonel 'Abdallah Salim al-Jururi, were able to purge and occupy 2 square kilometers of the positions in which the defeated enemy had been stationed.

3. The confirmed enemy losses sustained in the two lightning attacks amounted to 426 killed, a large number of wounded, and a number of enemy soldiers and a quantity of serviceable weapons captured. Great quantities of enemy equipment and supplies were destroyed. God bless the heroic great men. Go forward to new victories.

[Dated] 21 March 1985

Jets Raid 3 Cities

JN221127 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1122 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our Air Force carried out a series of bold raids against selected targets in the cities of Bushehr, Arak, and Hamadan at 1150 [0850 GMT] today. After hitting their targets accurately, the brave sky hawks and their aircraft returned safe and triumphant, praise be to God. Let the Khomeyniites know that we will continue to strike everywhere and at every time until they yield to the call of justice and peace. It is God who grants success.

[Dated] 22 March 1985

AL-JUMHURIYAH: 'Punitive Measures' To Continue

JN211220 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Mar (INA) — The Iraqi newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* affirms that Iraq's punitive measures against the Iranian rulers will continue and escalate. It says that Iraq will not be soft in solving its conflict with Iran and will not accept anything short of a comprehensive, just, and honorable solution that ends the war. The paper adds: We will not be soft with them in one area so they can fight us in another, especially when the Iranian regime is not showing any serious readiness for peace. The paper says that Iraq has the upper hand in this war. Therefore, if they want to stop in one arena, they must stop in all other arenas. It will be better for them.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: We will not show mercy to the midgets in Iran. We will not allow them a single day of calm and stability, but will keep hammering their heads.

The paper affirms that Iraq's punitive measures will continue and even escalate. The Iranian rulers will be mistaken if they think that we will be content with their abject defeat in the marshland battle or with the strikes deep in their territory, *AL-JUMHURIYAH* concludes.

Fatah's Khalaf Confers With 'Aziz, Others

JN211750 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1620 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], member of the Fatah Central Committee, is continuing his official visit to Iraq. Our radio correspondent provided us with the following report on the meetings Brother Abu Iyad and the delegation accompanying him held with officials in fraternal Iraq:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified radio correspondent] The Palestinian revolution's radio correspondent has learned that Brother Abu Iyad, member of the Fatah Central Committee and official in charge of security in the revolution, who arrived in Baghdad 2 days ago along with the delegation accompanying him, is continuing his meetings with senior officials in Baghdad. He met with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

Talks during the meeting, which lasted for more than 2 hours, revolved around developments in the Palestinian arena, the Iraq-Iran war, and international efforts that are being exerted to end this war. A meeting also took place at the headquarters of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's National Command in Baghdad this morning between the Palestinian and Iraqi sides. Taking part in these discussions along with Brother Abu Iyad are PNC member Brother Abu Dawud, not further identified, and Brother 'Azzam al-Ahmad, director of the PLO office in Baghdad. [end recording]

INA Interview

JN212024 [Editorial Report] Baghdad INA in Arabic at 1915 GMT on 21 March transmits a 600-word report on an INA interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, in Baghdad on 21 March.

Khalaf praises Iraq's recent victories in the Hawr al-Hawizah battles and calls on all those who work to prolong the war to learn a lesson from these battles. He says that Iran's only choice is to heed the calls for peace. Khalaf hopes that the war will end soon so that the Iraqi Armed Forces will direct their efforts toward ending the "Zionist occupation of Palestine."

Khalaf condemns the "despicable, treasonous Syrian role of plotting against Iraq and supporting Iranian aggression." He says that the Syrian regime plotted against the Palestinian revolution in Lebanon and fully backed the aggression against Iraq, allowing Arab blood to be shed when it should be spared to liberate the Arab territory of Palestine.

On the Fatah dissidents, Khalaf expresses his belief that "they are finished," that their attempts to form a "so-called National Salvation Front" have failed. On a possible Middle East settlement, Khalaf voices the opinion that there are no proposals for a political settlement at the present time, adding that the U.S. policies are blocking all forms of settlement concerning the Palestinian people's rights. He said that the U.S. Administration has nothing new to offer the Arabs.

Alia Offices in Rome, Athens, Nicosia Attacked

JN211428 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Amman — The offices of the Royal Jordanian Airlines — Alia — in Athens, Rome, and Nicosia were exposed to treacherous attacks between 1000-1100 this morning. Two hand grenades were thrown at Alia offices in Athens, one of which did not explode. As a result of the attack, three persons were slightly injured — the director of the Alia office and two local employees.

Two persons threw two hand grenades at the Alia office in Rome. The two grenades exploded injuring two local female employees.

In Nicosia, a person threw a bomb at the Alia office causing damage to the office. None of the employees was injured.

The necessary contacts were made with the competent authorities in Athens, Rome, and Cyprus regarding the circumstances and intricacies of these incidents, in order to brief the Jordanian Government on the results and details of the investigations and to guarantee the capture of the perpetrators.

Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat spent this afternoon at the Foreign Ministry where he followed up the situation and sent two urgent messages to the Greek and Italian prime ministers, asking them to adopt the necessary measures to guarantee complete and sufficient protection for Jordanian interests in both countries in the face of terrorist acts and attacks.

Black September Claims Responsibility

NC211740 Paris AFP in English 1738 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Paris, March 21 (AFP) — The Palestinian Black September terrorist group claimed responsibility here for three separate attacks on offices of the Jordanian airline, Alia, in Athens, Rome and Nicosia today. In a call to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE headquarters here, a man who claimed to be telephoning from Rome said Black September "will continue its operations inside and outside Jordan until the Jordanian regime is beaten."

Black September takes its name from the month in 1970 when Jordan crushed growing Palestinian threats to the Jordanian monarchy. The group claimed several spectacular terrorist attacks in the 1970's, including the abduction and killing of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics, but had not been heard of in several years.

The caller told the "Jordano-Palestinian peoples" to keep away from places linked to the Amman government, "because they will be the next targets."

"We will not forgive all those who try to revive the spirit of Camp David, whether they are the leftovers of the (Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman) Yasir 'Arafat clique or the Husni Mubarak regime," the caller said in a reference to peace moves between Israel and Egypt.

Meanwhile in Amman, Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat sent two "urgent messages" to the Greek and Italian premiers, calling on them to take all necessary measures for the "total protection" of Jordanian interests, authoritative sources in the Jordanian capital said.

Official sources in Amman said the government had contacted the Greek, Italian and Cypriot capitals for full details of investigations into the attacks.

AL-DUSTUR Criticizes Attacks on Alia Offices

JN220914 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Mar 85 p 1

[Editorial: "Alia Is Not Occupying the Golan"]

[Text] We think we do not need to emphasize that the hands which carried out criminal attacks on the Royal Jordanian Airlines (Alia) offices in Athens, Rome, and Nicosia yesterday have given evidence of their weakness and bankruptcy, in addition to their renunciation of the simplest meanings of manliness and valor that have always characterized the Arab fighter throughout all ages. These cowardly hands, which have become accustomed to aggression under the cover of darkness, chose easy targets when they attacked defenseless Alia offices that are open to serve the public. These hands committed their crime while being well aware that Jordan will never change its national policy merely because a foolish hireling attacked an Alia office, a university student abroad, or a Jordanian Embassy diplomat. Such heinous acts will not undermine Jordan's steadfastness. Moreover, we do not think that a country that respects itself will allow such childish acts to determine its policy and define its domestic and foreign line.

Such acts can only distort the picture of the Arab individual to world public opinion and jeopardize the lives of innocent civilians, be they Jordanian or foreign nationals. We do not think that this will contribute to a cause or achieve a political aim. We wish that those who claim to be fighting Israel would confront it in the Golan, would join the Lebanese resistance, or would attack an Israeli military target, while Israel is persecuting their kinfolk and people in the occupied areas and in southern Lebanon. We really wish that these shaky hands which stretched out to harm Jordanian commercial institutions yesterday had used their weapons in the actual field of resistance against this nation's enemies, instead of directing them against the chests of their own people and against the nationals of some friendly countries.

Jordan has so far refrained from replying in kind to such acts, and the countries that embrace such killers and supply them with funds and weapons should not exceed the limits in testing Jordan's ability to be patient over these provocations. These countries should control this evil before its danger exacerbates and returns harm to them. We also call on the countries where Jordanian civilian or commercial interests exist to reinforce their security measures toward these interests in order to spare innocent blood and to act according to the principle of reciprocity.

While appreciating the government's care and vigilance for the security of both the homeland and citizens everywhere, we hope that it will coordinate with the various friendly governments in order to provide further protection for our civilian and commercial interests in the world capitals, especially after this type of

terrorism has become a phenomenon afflicting almost every state.

AL-RA'Y on Futility of Terrorism Against Jordan

JN220950 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Mar 85 p 1

[Editorial: "Stronger Than Terrorism"]

[Text] Those who are politically and intellectually impotent and those who are stragglers in terms of struggle and pan-Arab stands are the ones who planned and carried out the terrorist attacks against the offices of the Royal Jordanian Airlines, Alia, in Athens, Rome, and Nicosia yesterday. They think that these criminal acts can prove their presence on the scene after they have been superseded by time. But those who agreed to turn into cheap and mercenary tools cannot have any weight of any type whatsoever.

What has happened means that the evil ones who were agitated by the active Jordanian move to extricate the question from stalemate want to exhaust and impede Jordanian efforts by cowardly practices. These evil ones themselves were earlier annoyed by Jordan's support for fraternal Iraq and they are now made sleepless by the steps that are being taken to build an Arab action that can confront challenges. Therefore, they found access only to their customary path of crime and terrorism to foil the Arab momentum that has started. But how far they are from achieving their evil dream!

Jordan, in its decisions, stands, and practices, is too strong to pay attention to the terrorism of cowards and is too strong to deviate from from the pan-Arab line to which Jordan is adhering. Jordan has proved to be so at all times and situations and it will not allow terrorism to exhaust its efforts under any circumstances. The march of Arab construction will proceed forward despite the grudge-bearers. Our Arab masses fully realize that the clique of terrorists that is bragging of slogans is scum from the bad time that is rapidly receding now, after the Arab giant has stood up in Iraq and southern Lebanon and after the PLO has restored its freedom to make independent decisions and rid itself of the hegemony that was threatening it. There is a great difference between the men who are building Arab prestige on Iraqi soil, in southern Lebanon, and in the occupied Palestinian land, and those impotent and retarded ones who attack Arab installations with explosives and flee. Those who incite terrorism make wrong calculations if they imagine that crime would allow them to play a role in making events or directing them as they wish. Those who incite, plan, or carry out criminal acts are alike. As for events, they are made and directed by heroes and honorable ones.

AL-RA'Y Criticizes Idea of Jordan-Israel Talks

JN211414 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Mar 85 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "The Light of Dawn Breaks the Darkness"]

[Text] It is necessary for Mr Richard Murphy and all those who make policy and implement it in the U.S. Administration to understand that Jordan will never agree to be an alternative to the PLO, nor will it agree to enter separate negotiations with Israel. Recalling this fact constitutes a reply to the Israeli radio report which quoted Murphy as saying that he told the Israeli minister plenipotentiary in the United States yesterday that the U.S. Administration would like Jordan to enter into negotiations with Israel. It must be emphasized that any such proposals Murphy may present in his expected visit to the region will render his mission completely futile. Such proposals will prove that the U.S. Administration deliberately aims to impede the peace process in the region and prevent its activation.

What evokes contemplation and astonishment is that while the U.S. assistant secretary of state has again played the tune of direct negotiations between Jordan and Israel at his meeting with the Israeli minister plenipotentiary, the U.S. ambassador in Cairo was speaking to President Mubarak about the U.S. commitment to promote the peace process in the region. No one can see the wisdom behind two U.S. officials concurrently issuing two contradictory statements, especially since the return to such a tune is completely contradictory to the commitment toward promoting the peace process. This commitment also requires, first of all, a balanced U.S. policy toward the question — a balance that has not been indicated so far.

The contradiction in the U.S. statements does not contribute to returning confidence in U.S. credibility, which is deteriorating in the Arab arena. The only way to restore some confidence in it requires a positive U.S. stand that proves the presence of a balance, that avoids collusion with the Israeli aggressors, and that couples itself with clear practices which contribute to activating the cause toward the desired just and comprehensive solution.

Perhaps the U.S. Administration realizes that hesitating to adopt this stand would waste the last opportunity for peace in the region — an opportunity which was created by the Jordanian- Palestinian agreement and which His Majesty King Husayn has called attention to more than once. It is also wrong and dangerous for this administration to continue bettting on Arab inability, especially since the enormous developments in the arena of the Iraq-Iran war and in southern Lebanon confirm that the Arab weakness has been a temporary and rapidly diminishing case, which is being replaced by an "Arab giant" that is able to choose, make sacrifices, pursue action, and achieve victory. This frankly means that the region's future does not depend solely on U.S. and Israeli will and that the Arab will, which has proved itself in these two arenas, will find no difficulty in asserting itself in order to activate the Palestine question, save the region from the evils of foreign hegemony, and establish a true peace.

The Arab giant that has stood up in Iraq and southern Lebanon is now a fact that the Israeli aggressors and their U.S. allies cannot deny. This fact means that it is time for them to reconsider their calculations and to be aware that new circumstances are calling on them to accept a just and comprehensive peace in the region. This is because the Arab giant has risen and the light of dawn is breaking the darkness.

Karami Criticizes Proposals for Partition
NC211656 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Today Prime Minister Rashid Karami violently attacked the advocates of sectarianism who are trying to take on roles that do not belong to them. He asserted that religion derives from God, who sent the apostles and prophets solely for the welfare of man, his dignity, and his happiness. The prime minister criticized the proposals for partition, saying that there is no difference between federation, confederation, and decentralization, and deemed an effort to fragment the homeland and to divide the people filthy acts incited by the devil.

Karami declared in a loud voice that he rejects all attempts to regress, and all efforts to dominate the Lebanese people. He warned the uprising or coup perpetrators that their path is not easy and that the road is not open for them. Prime Minister Karami said this in a speech he delivered this afternoon at a banquet held by the development studies seminar at the American University Graduates Club on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the club's establishment.

Birri Seeks Intervention by Pope John Paul II
NC211900 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Attorney Nabih Birri, minister of state for southern Lebanon and reconstruction affairs and minister of justice and hydroelectric resources, received papal nuncio Luciano Angeloni today. The two reviewed the situation in the south and the Lebanese situation in general. Birri said that he asked Angeloni to convey an oral message to His Holiness Pope John Paul II on the new situation in Lebanon, hoping that his holiness will intervene personally to stop the serious trend toward partition that has emerged of late.

Details of Phalangist 'Power Struggle' Cited
NC211611 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] The power struggle between groups loyal to Samir Ja'ja' and Fu'ad Abu Nadir is still raging. It has been learned that the Ja'ja' group has had the premises of the newspaper *AL-AMAL* in the area of Al-Sayfi surrounded since this morning. Meanwhile, Phalangist militia barracks in 'Ayn al-Rummanah, Al-Hadath and Al-Shrafiyah have declared their support for Abu Nadir's group. Both cavalry and infantry activity by the Ja'ja' group has been seen in Dubayyah, Al-Qarantina, and Al-Dawrah.

Dani Sham'un, Elie Karamah Condemn Uprising
NC211826 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Only 10 days after the so-called uprising, two officials from the Phalange Party and the National Liberals Party have condemned the actions committed under that name.

Dani Sham'un, secretary general of the National Liberals Party, told REUTER that the rebels are playing with fire and that they might take Lebanon back into a civil war between Christians and Muslims. He added: We might end up with shelling and countershelling. It seems that they are playing with fire.

Meanwhile, Phalange Party leader Dr Elie Karamah declared that the party is seeking a compromise solution and that it does not recognize the rebels' seizure of the Lebanese Forces' militias. He added that the party opposes any plan that would lead to further divisions.

The Phalange Party paper described the rebels as adventurers who are threatening the Christian community with a destructive war, rather than offering salvation.

Lebanese Forces Withdraw From Sidon, Appoint Officials
NC211555 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] The Lebanese Forces' Executive Committee concluded a meeting at 1530 this afternoon and issued the following statement:

1. The Lebanese Forces' Executive Committee discussed the current situation in the south and decided that events taking place there are tantamount to the incitement of sectarian intrigue, in the hope of involving the uprising in Sidon and its environs.

Acknowledging that responsibility for security in Sidon and the surrounding area belongs to the Lebanese state, the committee welcomes the deployment of the Lebanese Army and its assumption of the task of ensuring the security and safety of the citizens there.

The Executive Committee notes that the Lebanese Forces have withdrawn their men, equipment and vehicles from the area and that they no longer have an organized presence there.

2. The Executive Committee discussed the statement made by the Lebanese president in which he acknowledged the legitimacy of the uprising, and expressed praise for that statement.

3. The Executive Committee has decided to create a delegation consisting of Antoine Bridi; Etian Saqr, alias Abu Arz; Fawzi Mahfuz, alias Abu Roy; and Elie Aswad, which will call on the various political, religious, economic, social, and cultural officials and explain the nature of the next stage of events.

4. The Executive Committee unanimously agreed to the following appointments in the Lebanese Forces:

—Chief of the National Security Department: Elie Hubayqah;
—Chief of the Political and Information Department: Karim Baqraduni;
—Chief of the Inspectorate General: Antoine Bridi.

Further Details on Israeli Operations in South

Advances to 'Anqun

NC211316 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] According to security sources, the Israelis, accompanied by personnel belonging to the agent Lahd, entered ('Ayn Buswar) and Jba' at 0630 today, fired wildly, and set a number of cars alight. The occupation forces entered the town of 'Ayn Qana at 0700. Their troops then parachuted into Sarba before entering the town of Kafr Fila. These forces advanced, and reached the approaches to 'Anqun, where violent fighting involving various types of weapons is going on with the Army.

The sources added that Kafr Milki has been the target of concentrated artillery fire since 0100 today.

Enemy forces, supported by a large number of tanks and armored cars, have also entered the town of Humin al-Tahta. This followed fighting which pitted them against the local people and national resistance fighters. The Israeli enemy rounded up residents between the ages of 15 and 70 in the school playground. The enemy then destroyed at least five homes and searched the town's streets. The enemy prevented journalists, civil defense squads, and Red Cross teams from entering the town. The security cordon thrown around the area has made it difficult to determine the number of casualties.

The Israeli enemy also destroyed a Lebanese Army position at the Rumin-Sarba Junction.

'Foreign,' Local Correspondents Killed

NC211458 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] According to latest reports from the south, Kafr Milki is still coming under fierce artillery fire. We have been informed that a foreign press correspondent and a Lebanese reporter have been killed. Both legs of the foreign correspondent's assistant were amputated.

A fierce battle is raging with the Israeli invaders on the outskirts of Kafr Milki. According to reports from the south, an enemy vehicle was destroyed and its occupants either killed or wounded on the Kafr Fila-Al-Kassarat bridge.

On the other side, Fawziyah Za'yun and Naji Hasan from Kafr Milki were taken to Sidon after sustaining wounds. It also has been reported that Israeli occupation forces have prevented the International Red Cross from entering the villages Israel has invaded.

Israelis Withdraw From Villages

NC211832 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] According to reports from the south this evening, the Israeli enemy forces have withdrawn from the towns they entered this morning, leaving behind horrible destruction, bodies everywhere, and fires in buildings and property.

The victims of the massacre in Humin al-Tahta include Ni'mah Muhammad Ballut, Ni'mah Juni, Ahmad al-Hajj, Muhammad Salih Hamdan and his wife, 'Imad 'Ali Hamdan, Muhammad 'Abbas Najim, Mahmud 'Isa, Musa Hamdan, Muhammad Najm, Jamil Mir'i from the town of Al-Ghaziyah, and one unidentified person.

The enemy forces destroyed six houses while their owners were within. Their bodies remain under the rubble, because the enemy prevented the International Red Cross from entering the town. The enemy destroyed more than 30 other houses and crushed most of the cars in the town by running them over with heavy vehicles.

The novelty in these crimes is that the enemy has resorted to a new method of killing our citizens. We have received a statement from the Amal movement's office in Beirut warning citizens in the towns of Humin al-Tahta and Humin al-Fawqa not to use their cars because the enemy has rigged them to explode when the engine is started, hoping thereby to cause more death and destruction. The Israeli forces also arrested more than 30 people, taking them to an unknown destination.

In Kafr Malki, two citizens were killed and others were wounded as a result of the shelling. In Jba', the enemy forces destroyed several houses and burned others. Shelling also destroyed some houses in 'Anqun and injured several people.

Four Israelis Reportedly Held by Resistance

NC211548 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] In a telephone conversation with a foreign news agency in Beirut, a spokesman for the Lebanese National and Islamic resistance said that the movement is holding four Israeli intelligence personnel who, according to the caller, were detained in the south.

The spokesman established two conditions for their release: Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon and the release of all prisoners in Israel.

VOAL: Katyusha Rockets Strike Metulla 22 Mar

NC220725 [Clandestine] Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] In response to the barbaric onslaught and bestial massacre committed by the occupation forces in the struggling villages in the south yesterday, the Martyr Shaykh Raghib Harb group fired a number of Katyusha rockets at Metulla settlement at dawn today, accurately hitting the targets.

No information has been available on the number of casualties. However, helicopters that hovered over the area affirm that the enemy's losses are large. The group returned safely to base.

Foreign Envoys Summoned Over Israeli Actions

NC211346 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Acting on orders from Rashid Karami, prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, the Foreign Ministry summoned the representatives of the five major powers that are permanent members of the Security Council — the Soviet Union, the United States, China, France, and Britain — today. They will meet with Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ambassador Fu'ad al-Turk and Dr Khalil Makkawi, director of political affairs on Friday. They will be briefed on Israel's repressive action against residents of those southern villages from which Israel had withdrawn. They will also receive detailed information on the new operations carried out by the enemy over the last 2 days.

The Foreign Ministry has furnished Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, Lebanon's permanent delegate to the United Nations, with information on Israel's campaign against certain southern villages. He was asked to add this information to the UN file on Israeli actions.

Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ambassador al-Turk received a call today from Nabih Birri, minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs. The two men discussed Israeli practices in the south and the Israeli operations against southern villages.

Meanwhile, Dr Khalil Makkawi, director of political affairs at the Foreign Ministry, received the Nethelrands ambassador to Lebanon. Their talks touched on the Situation in the south and on the renewal of UNIFIL's mandate. The Netherlands supplies a contingent to that force. The ambassador told Makkawi that his government has decided to renew UNIFIL's mandate in southern Lebanon.

French, Italian Officials Kidnapped in West Beirut

French Embassy Official Kidnapped

NC220846 Paris AFP in English 0836 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Beirut, March 22 (AFP) — The French vice consul in Beirut, Marcel Fontaine, was abducted today not far from the consulate in predominantly Moslem West Beirut as he was buying a newspaper, an Embassy spokesman said here.

The kidnapping was not immediately claimed.

Gunmen Kidnap Italian Major

NC221100 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] At approximately 1100 today, gunmen kidnapped an Italian major in the UN forces, while he was driving a Volkswagen in the Carlton area in West Beirut.

Al-Asad Receives Libyan, PDRY Officials

Meets Libya's Jallud

JN211435 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus — President Hafiz al-Asad received Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, member of the Libyan 1 September Revolution Command, in Damascus at 1330 today. Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam attended the meeting. Talks dealt with the situation and developments in the region and the Arab and Lebanese arenas in light of the imperialist and Zionist moves.

Talks With PDRY Officials

JN211823 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Anis Hasan Yahya, member of the YSP Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, and Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, YSP Political Bureau member and foreign minister, at 1900 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended the meeting. Talks dealt with the situation in the region and in the Arab arena in light of the imperialist and Zionist schemes that are hostile to the Arab nation's interests, and the results of the quadripartite meeting that was held in Damascus yesterday.

Libyan, PDRY Officials Depart

JN220940 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0856 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus, 22 Mar (SANA) — The PDRY delegation led by Anis Yahya, member of the YSP Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, left Damascus for Aden today.

The delegation was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Comrade Tawfiq Salihah, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command; Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; the directors of protocol at the National Command and the Foreign Ministry; the PDRY ambassador in Damascus; and the PDRY Embassy staff.

Algerian Delegation Departs Damascus 21 Mar

JN211331 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1210 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus, 21 Mar (SANA) — The Algerian delegation comprising Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, official in charge of the FLN Permanent Secretariat, and Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, minister of foreign affairs, left Damascus today.

Dr Sulayman Qaddah, Ba'th Party Regional Command assistant secretary; Faruq al-Shar', the foreign minister; and the Algerian ambassador in Damascus saw the delegation off.

Al-Kasm Inaugurates Projects, Delivers Speech

JN212002 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Al-Raqqah — Within our masses' celebration of the 22d anniversary of the glorious March revolution and President Hafiz al-Asad's reelection, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm inaugurated the main outlet of the lower canal in Al-Raqqah.

The prime minister delivered a speech in which he noted our people's exhilaration with the March festivities — the reelection of Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad and the anniversary of the glorious March revolution. He said: At the instruction of the comrade secretary general of the party and president of the Republic, we visit Al-Raqqah Governorate for the fourth time today where we reap the outcome of work and effort. He added: While we celebrate the inauguration of these magnificent projects your brothers are standing on the borders confronting conspiracies, protecting what you are building and erecting. This is the revolution's slogan: "We Build With One Hand and Protect the Achievements With the Other."

Dr al-Kasm said: The pillars of treason meet in Baghdad to conspire against the Arab nation's pan-Arab objectives. While we are sacrificing our blood and sweat for our people's renaissance, the others are standing against this people's aspirations and the Arab nation. Everyone must recall that just as you destroyed the old Baghdad axis you will destroy, today, the new Baghdad axis. O sad Baghdad, the victim, you will return to Damascus and Damascus will return to you so that together you will raise the Arab nation's slogan of victory and liberation. Moreover, Cairo will also return liberated from the treasonous Camp David regime. Dr al-Kasm added: While Israel is being forced to withdraw from the Lebanese territory under the pressure of the Lebanese nationalist resistance, which gave hundreds of martyrs and struck at the enemy in every position, the enemy is using some of his agents in Lebanon allow him to enter through the window after leaving through the door. The enemy believed that the Lebanese people will weaken in the face of such intervention. This did not surprise us, because we have always expected traitors to make a move. The traitors and agents have moved in Beirut under false slogans. However, the Arab people of Lebanon responded clearly and frankly: Lebanon will remain united, Arab, and independent. Dr al-Kasm concluded his speech by saying: Under this political and conspiratorial climate and despite the pressures, we decided to continue with the battle of development and construction. We decided that nothing will distract us from building this country. Allow me to convey to you father leader Hafiz al-Asad's greetings and affection.

TISHRIN Asserts Support for Lebanese Legitimacy

PM211511 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 17 Mar 85 p 8

[Mustafa al-Faqir article: "Lebanon Will Not Go Back"]

[Excerpts] Syria did not make all the sacrifices of the past 10 years, nor did Lebanon make all its sacrifices and suffer losses

for the sake of the country's territorial integrity and people's unity for a pro-Zionist group to come out and openly advocate turning the clock back; this is an attempt to once again propose partitioning of the land and stoke the flames of civil war that have died down.

Throughout the past years Syria has continued to defend Lebanon, its territorial integrity, people, independence, and sovereignty and at the same time to defend its legitimacy, which is represented in the presidency, the government, and the parliament; this is because it realizes that the collapse of these institutions is bound to disrupt the situation and fragment the people, which would be in the interest of the Zionist enemy and serve his plans to partition the sister country, take control of its destiny, and use it as a base to pounce on Syria and the region. Syria has repeatedly stressed through its actions, which have never changed direction, that it is for all the Lebanese; Syria holds out its hand to every sincere Lebanese seeking to liberate his country from the Israeli invaders and consolidate conciliation in order to abort all plans for disruption, fragmentation, and Zionization. Syria's efforts bore fruit, and so did the efforts of sincere Lebanese; Lebanon began to regain its health and the Israeli enemy began withdrawing from southern Lebanon under the blows of the nationalist resistance and in order to avoid further losses.

It was at this time in particular that the call of the pro-Zionist group was launched in the form of an armed mutiny; the group called for reconsideration of everything: the conciliation efforts, Lebanon's Arab option, the national unity government, the agreed reforms, a developed Syrian-Lebanese relations, and the cancelled 17 May agreement.

It was natural for Syria to confront this situation and to place all its resources at the disposal of legitimacy and the national unity government. Lebanon will not go back to the civil war inferno, because all Lebanese are unanimous in wanting to halt the war and resolve all the outstanding disputes and problems within the framework of territorial integrity and the people's unity. Under no circumstances will Syria allow those who led Lebanon into the disaster to renew their evil attempts, which serve Israeli interests and schemes and expose Lebanon, Syria, and the whole area to the gravest dangers. Those who are today bearing arms against legitimacy are indeed bearing arms against Lebanon and the Lebanese people. Syria has sworn to help Lebanon and the Lebanese, and cooperates with those who are sincere. Those with evil intentions and ulterior plans will hear the only effective language from Syria in such circumstances.

If the dissidents who are now submitting "demands" that Lebanon and the area have rejected, believe that they will succeed in undermining the situation and stoking the flames of war, they are mistaken. They represent only themselves, and the arms they are carrying today in the face of legitimacy will not affect Lebanon, its institutions, or conciliation. The claim that they represent the "Christians" in the sister country is rejected, because the great majority of Lebanese, Muslims and Christians, has decided on its course. Lebanon would not have been able to take such strides along the road to conciliation and liberation had it not been for this great majority and its firm resolve to end all abnormalities. If Israel is fighting its last battle through those dissidents, then it is definitely losing, because Lebanese legitimacy will emerge stronger and efforts for conciliation will grow: All the elements needed for Lebanon to rise again are present, and it will inevitably rise again.

Peres Reiterates Call for Talks With Jordan

TA211628 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1545 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Jerusalem, 21 Mar (ITIM) — "The day will come when the message of peace will reach both sides of the bridge," Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said today while touring the Allenby bridge over the Jordan River.

The prime minister again called for a face-to-face meeting and direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan, noting that all attempts to get the United States to take Israel's place are fundamentally wrong. "The Arabs," he said, "do not have a problem of peace with the United States, but rather with Israel. I am certain that the United States would not agree to and cannot take Israel's place. I hope that our Arab neighbors understand that they do not have to cross the Atlantic Ocean in order to advance the peace process. Rather, all they have to do is cross the Jordan River and meet with Israel." Mr Peres added that he did not believe there would be immediate progress in the region in the wake of Egyptian President Mubarak's initiative and the 'Arafat-Husayn agreement. However, he also expressed his opposition to a total rejection of the Egyptian initiative by political circles in Israel. During his visit to the Allenby bridge passenger terminal, the prime minister heard detailed explanations on crossing procedures between the two sides of the Jordan River. He spoke at length with visitors from Jordan who expressed the hope that peace would soon prevail in the region and who lavished their best wishes on Peres. At a meeting held afterward in the settlement of Tomer with representatives of Jordan Rift Valley settlements, the prime minister said that "there is a national consensus regarding the Jordan Rift Valley. We want to make peace, but not at the expense of the country or its security areas." He added: "Your achievements are most impressive. You certainly have something to be proud of."

Peres, Shamir Meet on Political, Coalition Issues

TA220803 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0750 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir met with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres this morning. Following the private meeting, Yitzhaq Shamir told our correspondent Shalom Oren that they discussed political issues, including the withdrawal from Lebanon, the U.S. initiative, and the possible meeting between a Palestinian delegation with U.S. Administration leaders. In reply to a question by our correspondent, the foreign minister said he does not foresee a danger to the coalition and the national unity government.

Opposition to U.S.-Palestinian Negotiations Remains

TA211806 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 21 Mar 85 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Dalya Shehori]

[Text] Government circles in Jerusalem last night confirmed that Israel has agreed to have the United States work on the establishment of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation without the PLO. When Richard Murphy comes to Israel during the first half of April, Israel will not object to him holding talks in the West Bank in a bid to form such a delegation.

The prime minister's media adviser, Uri Savir, made clear yesterday that reports that Israel had changed its position — rejecting preliminary negotiations between the United States and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation without Israeli participation — were unfounded. "Israel continues to advocate direct negotiationswith a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that does not include PLO members," Savir said.

Our correspondent notes that Israel distinguishes between the stage during which the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation would be formed with the help of the United States, Israel does not object to this, and preliminary negotiations between the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the United States, which Israel opposes.

Shamir Interviewed on Withdrawal, Mubarak Plan, EC

TA220733 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Mar 85 pp 1, 4

[Report on an interview with Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by David Landau "yesterday" — place not given]

[Text] The Likud ministers will go along with current plans for completing the IDF's withdrawal from all of Lebanon. This wasclearly indicated by Vice Prime Minister and Likud leader Yitzhaq Shamir in an interview with *THE JERUSALEM POST* yesterday.

The Cabinet is scheduled to approve by April 15 the third and final stage of the pullback, and the last soldier should be out of Lebanon by the first week in May. There had been fears that Likud hardliners would mount a rearguard action against implementing the third stage immediately. Six Likud ministers, led by Shamir, voted against the original withdrawal-in-phases decision on January 14.

But Shamir said yesterday "there is no purpose now" in trying "to change the decision regarding withdrawal." He added somberly that Israel is withdrawing "without knowing what is going to happen" in terms of the terror threat along the border. "It's an open question, and a worrying question — and one which we will have to find an answer for," the Vice Premier and Foreign Minister declared.

In a wide-ranging interview, he also spoke of the Mubarak initiative ("I still don't know what it is"), the talks surrounding Spain's accession to the European Community ("they went well theoretically"), his proposal for resolving the Coptic-Ethiopian church dispute in Jerusalem, his recent visit to Canada, Israel's improved standing in the international arena ("it has been improving for years"), and his retrospective reflections about the Lebanon war ("no regrets").

Shamir said he had been closely questioned during his recent trips abroad about Israel's intentions following the pullback. "I

said I simply did not know. But we would have to find the answers" if the terrorist threat persisted.

Shamir added that this sort of question — "the security of Qiryat Shemona" — was one that had to be answered, unlike such questions as the Palestinian problem (or the Irish question) which could sometimes remain unavoidably unresolved "for a hundred years."

He insisted that Egypt's current diplomatic effort would not bring the resolution of the Palestinian problem any closer. "What is the 'Mubarak initiative'?" he asked. "To this day I still don't know what it is."

Israel is on record as favouring peace talks with a Jordanian delegation that could include Palestinians who are not PLO representatives. If that is what the Egyptian president is proposing — "then bevakasha [fine, go ahead]."

Egypt's real purpose, however, is to obtain American recognition of the PLO, Shamir said. This had been a prime goal of Egyptian policy ever since Al-Sadat's time, Shamir said. If it were achieved, "Egypt's prestige in the Arab world would soar. All the stigma (attaching to the peace with Israel) would be wiped out. Egypt would not only have liberated Arab land, it would also have put the Palestinian issue at centre-stage as a question due for immediate resolution.

"This is not a policy-trend that serves the cause of peace or that coincides with Israeli interests Shamir declared dourly.

He noted that Mubarak had "failed so far" to obtain his goal in the U.S. Both he and Jordan's King Husayn were seeking to persuade the U.S. Administration that the Amman agreement between Husayn and PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat is a fulfillment of America's conditions for recognizing the PLO.

Three conditions, established in the mid-1970s, are acceptance of Israel's existence and acceptance of UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

Shamir said Mubarak and Husayn are urging Washington not to press the PLO for any more specific or explicit commitment to those conditions than that vaguely implied in the Amman agreement. Washington, however, is not convinced.

The Foreign Ministry's own experts, said Shamir, "who are the finest in the land," analyzed the Amman agreement as a tactical move resulting from the PLO's weakness following the loss of its territorial base in Lebanon. Shamir conceded that "something did take place in Amman. But my experts do not see it as an advance towards peace with Israel. They do not regard it as evincing a desire to make progress in the peace process."

The U.S., moreover, is standing firm in its insistence that negotiations over peace with Israel must involve Israel. Shamir said he had reliably established that there is no truth in the speculation, aired earlier this week, that Washington would accept Mubarak's idea for U.S. talks with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation without Israel being present at the initial round of such talks.

The Mubarak initiative would be helpful, Shamir continued, if it led to an improvement of relations between Israel and Egypt. This is "no less important than negotiations with some additional Arab country," he said, because the peace with Egypt is the precedent and the testing-ground for future relationships.

His proposal, he said, is "to put all the issues of dispute between us on the table" at a ministerial-level conference.

The Egyptians would table their complaint about Tabah, the disputed beach site near Elat, and about Dayr al-Sultan, the passageway in dispute between the Coptic and Ethiopian churches in Jerusalem.

Israel would table its demands for the return of the Egyptian ambassador, for implementation of the 40-odd normalization agreements which have been signed but remain dead letters, and for the cessation of hostile propaganda in the Cairo media.

Shamir said a prominent Egyptian leader, whom he would not name, had voiced a similar proposal for a catch-all ministerial conference some three months ago, and Shamir had strongly advocated it since then. He denied that this proposal is in essence the same as his longheld and oft-stated position that the Tabah dispute should not be handled in isolation, but in the context of a broad diplomatic assault on all the outstanding issues.

On Dayr al-Sultan, Shamir disclosed, he had suggested that an Israeli judge, not necessarily Jewish, act as arbitrator between the two sects. But both of them had rejected this idea.

Summing up his lobbying efforts in European capitals and at European Community headquarters in advance of crucial EC talks on Spanish and Portuguese entry into the Community, Shamir said, "In theory, at least, I did well. From the political leaders we received all the promises we sought. And on the executive level, the commission will submit proposals which take account of Israeli concerns."

He revealed that Israel had tried in the past to establish direct contact with Morocco and Tunisia, which are similarly concerned over Spain's and Portugal's prospective entry into the Community. "But it didn't work."

Nevertheless, Israeli diplomats are fully abreast of the Maghreb countries' lobbying efforts, which are on lines similar to Israel's.

Shamir noted that these states had France as the "patron" in the communi/y. He recoiled at the notion that Germany might be regarded as "Israel's patron," but he recorded with appreciation Bonn's repeated undertakings to help promote Israel's cause.

He had special praise for the former French foreign minister, Claude Cheysson, who has returned to the EC Commission and is now the commissioner with particular responsibility for negotiations with the Mediterranean countries. While in the past some Israeli officials have regarded Cheysson as an "Arabist," Shamir said he had known him personally for years and was convinced that he sincerely wants "to help us" in the talks connected wit Spain's accession.

President Mitterrand and Foreign Minister Dumas had also pledged their active support, as had Chancellor Kohl and Foreign Minister Genscher in Germany, and Belgian and Dutch leaders too, he added. Premier Peres, who recently visited Italy, had enlisted Prime Minister Craxi's support.

Israel's basic hope is to be able to maintain its present share of Europe's agricultural imports even after Spain's accession. This goal left plenty of room for expansion, he explained, since consumption in Europe is rising all the time.

The commission's recommendations to the Council of Ministers (now meeting in Brussels) were not entirely adequate, he said, because they related exclusively to those products covered by the original 1975 EC-Israel cooperative agreement. Since them Israel had developed new lines to supply EC market needs: today, for instance, half of the cut flowers imported by the EC come from Israeli hothouses.

Shamir said he would be able to assess the success of Israel's lobbying efforts in May, when the next meeting of the EC-Israel Cooperation Council is to take place in Brussels. The vice premier's main focus was also economics during his visit last week to Canada. One tangible upshot will be a visit here soon by a mixed group of Canadian officials and businessmen to study high-tech investment opportunities. Shamir said he met with many leading businessmen, both Jewish and gentile, in an effort to promote interest in Israeli products and in the possibilities of purchasing government companies.

Politically, Shamir said, he had found the Conservative government of Brian Mulroney very well disposed, though he noted in the past, Canada had been second only to the U.S. in its steady support for Israel in international forums. The prime minister, who is "a very clever chap and obviously very popular," had said he had no wish to "lecture" Israel since Israel knows better than anyone what is required to make progress toward peace.

Mulroney and Foreign Minister Joe Clark have undertaken to "consider favourably" the requests from Israel, Egypt and the U.S. that Canada send troops to fill the gap in the Sinai MFO when Australia withdraws in April 1986. Shamir noted that Canada's accession to the force would be an important achievement in political and prestige terms in addition to its logistic value. (Australia supplies a helicopter unit which would presumably be provided now by Canada.)

Shamir said there had been indications that New Zealand might decide to keep its small contingent in the MFO despite Australia's decision to leave. He said this might be a good-will gesture by New Zealand toward the U.S., following their quarrel over American nuclear-armed ships calling at New Zealand ports.

The vice premier, who was premier until September 1984, fielded a question about the widely perceived recent improvement in Israel's standing abroad by claiming that the improvement had been "going on for years." He added that there is "admiration for the actual creation of the national unity government — a demonstration of our ability to resolve political problems by democratic means."

An earlier source of admiration for Israel, he maintained, had been the May 17, 1983 agreement with Lebanon. "That proved to the whole world that we genuinely had no territorial designs on Lebanon whatsoever." Following that agreement, the EC had waived the financial sanctions it had imposed on Israel after the invasion of Lebanon, and U.S. Secretary of State Shultz's attitude dramatically changed for the better.

The now-defunct agreement, said Shamir, had paved the way for his perhaps unprecedentedly successful prime ministerial visit to the U.S. in November 1983, when he obtained agreement-in-principle on the free-trade area, a revamped strategic accord, and the conversion of all U.S. loan-aid into grants.

Shamir said he had "no regrets" about the Lebanon war. "Everything we did was justified," he declared. "There is nothing to regret." Anyway, he said, he never regretted the past.

The May 17 agreement was to have provided a political settlement of the security problems, he continued. Now Israel is withdrawing with no such settlement.

He denied that subsequent developments had shown such a settlement to be impossible or unattainable. "We just did not attain it, and we are leaving without it," he said.

'No Political Obstacles' Seen to Early Withdrawal

TA220624 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Mar 85 p 1

[Report by Yo'el Marcus]

[Text] By mid-May at the latest, all IDF soldiers will be out of Lebanon and deployed along the international border. This was made possible after it emerged that Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has guaranteed the necessary Cabinet majority to implement the last stage of the withdrawal just a few days following the completion of the second stage, expected after the Passover holiday [6-13 April]. In fact, there are currently no political obstacles to completing the withdrawal by mid-May. If there is any delay beyond that day, it will result from decisions made by the chief of staff and the General Staff Command.

The area that the IDF will evacuate in southern Lebanon will see a different deployment of the army of southern Lebanon [ASL] based on a new tactic: Every village, or group of villages, will be defended by local units subordinate to the ASL, but in principle will be of a local character and something like a "civilian guard." At the most that strip will be 10 km wide, and will be intended to serve as a kind of Israeli area of influence along the border that will make sure that the various sects share a common interest in maintaining peaceful coexistence among themselves.

The formulation of the proposal brought to the Cabinet as a follow-up to the second stage of the withdrawal did not stipulate a date for its completion. This resulted from prior coordination between Peres and Rabin to avoid unnecessary arguments and to allow the defense minister and the IDF to have the final word on the date of the withdrawal. Indeed, as a result of the accelerated pullback, it will be possible to carry out the third phase, parts of

which have already begun to be implemented, a few days after it is brought to the Cabinet for approval. The prime minister has maintained contacts with the ministers to guarantee that there will be no postponement of the withdrawal to the international border. It has been reported that the withdrawal opponents have also changed their opinion, the leading figure being Moshe Arens, who now supports full withdrawal.

At any rate, according to associates of the prime minister, there is now a guaranteed majority that opposes letting the IDF mark its 3d anniversary in Lebanon. A source associated with the prime minister promised that there will be no monkey business involved in the decision, and that no IDF units will remain in the security strip, in any fashion.

CBS Crew Hit; 21 'Terrorists' Killed in S. Lebanon

TA211733 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1705 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Report by military correspondent Shmu'el Tal]

[Excerpt] Early this morning, IDF troops raided three villages in southern Lebanon: Humin al-Tahta, Jba', and Srifa. Humin al-Tahta is located outside the area under IDF's control following the first phase of the withdrawal. On its way, the IDF unit drove over a bomb planted on the side of the road near the village of 'Arab Salim which is located on the road to Humin al-Tahta. Two more bombs were uncovered in subsequent checks. The IDF unit searched houses in these three villages and uncovered large quantities of weapons. In the course of the searches, the IDF soldiers met with terrorist fire and one soldier sustained light injuries. Terrorists who attempted to flee from the scene were shot and killed; most of them were armed. In total, 21 terrorists were killed, mainly in Humin al-Tahta. Over 40 men suspected of having perpetrated terrorist attacks were arrested in the three villages. Several houses where weapons were uncovered were demolished in the village of Humin al-Tahta. Several dozen suspects were also arrested and weapons were uncovered in the village of Srifa. Among other things, the IDF uncovered mortars, explosive sticks, RPG launchers, and light weapons.

The IDF notified inhabitants in the area where the operation took place today that they should abstain from traveling on the roads. However, during the operation the IDF spotted a car. Shots were fired at the car and the driver was hit. Later, Lebanese sources said that a local television crew working for CBS had been hit and that the driver had been killed. The IDF is now checking the circumstances of this incident.

IDF Spokesman on CBS Crew

TA211944 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1936 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Here is the IDF's reaction to the incident in which two Lebanese members of a CBS television crew were killed. The IDF spokesman announced this evening that an IDF unit operating in Kafr Milki saw armed persons taking up firing positions. A tank crew spotted them and opened fire and it appears that the CBS crewmen who were hit were among those armed persons. The IDF spokesman noted that the IDF does not open fire on civilians, including clearly-identified journalists. If journalists arrive in areas where armed terrorists are encountered, they run the risk of getting hurt.

Ban on Journalists Renewed

TA220543 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] The IDF is holding contacts with representatives of the Tyre area population in an effort to guarantee that the area to be evacuated within a few weeks will not turn into a battlefield for the various factions. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that IDF officers did not inform the Lebanese of the date of the evacuation. There is little IDF traffic in Tyre nowadays. This week the IDF evacuated a post near the village of Al-Siddiqin, east of Tyre.

The IDF renewed the instruction meant to bar journalists from entering southern Lebanon from the north. The instruction states that journalists who come this way endanger themselves. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the Israeli representations in Washington and London brought the risks involved to the attention and knowledge of the leaders of the international communications media.

Our military correspondent further reports that an IDF debriefing indicated that the tank that fired at the CBS correspondents yesterday fired at long range. The tank crewmen fired after they identified armed terrorists who fled into vehicles. The IDF commanders believe that the correspondents who were hit were mingled among a group of terrorists.

IDF Kills Villager, Interrogates 300 in Al-Qulaylah

TA221012 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Searches are still being conducted in the Shi'ite village of Al-Qulaylah, south of Tyre. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht has learned this from the UNIFIL Command. Some 300 people are now being interrogated in the local school. Fijian UNIFIL soldiers are following developments. Earlier the UNIFIL spokesman announced that one man was killed and another wounded by the IDF fire. The circumstances of the incident are not clear.

Rabin, Commander Or View Withdrawal, Terrorism

TA211113 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
21 Mar 85 pp 1, 2

[Report by military correspondent Tali Zelinger]

[Excerpts] This week the IDF returned to the pre-Lebanese war security procedures to safeguard the northern settlements.

The IDF is formulating a policy whereby more and more residents of the settlements will be incorporated into the defense system in order to conserve manpower. Border police and settle-

ment officers have completed drilling the residents against any possible attacks. The shelters have already been cleaned and organized, and the residents are prepared for any emergency.

According to an ITIM correspondent's report, the Engineering Corps is continuing to do repair work along the purple Line [the international border]. Additional positions are being built, fences are being installed, and thousands of mines being laid in the area. The reconstruction work will continue for another few months and will provide maximum security for the settlements along the confrontation line.

The IDF has called on the residents in the security strip in southern Lebanon to cooperate in order to win decent treatment and maintain the prosperity that began after the departure of the terrorists from the area about 2 years ago. This was contained in a leaflet that was circulated yesterday in the villages of southern Lebanon. The leaflet was signed by Major General Ori Or, commander of the Northern Command. In the leaflet, Maj Gen Or refers to the government's decision in January 1985, according to which the IDF will deploy along the international border and will assist local forces in the security strip in southern Lebanon. "Lebanese residents, it is our fate to live together in this area forever for the sake of peace based on mutual respect...," the leaflet says.

The leaflet also emphasizes that Israel has no territorial ambitions in Lebanon and it respects "every centimeter of its sovereignty." At the same time, the leaflet addresses a warning to any terrorist, agent, or spy who may infiltrate the area and to any one who collaborates with them that "they expose themselves to the danger of being killed."

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin believes that if calm is not maintained on the northern border and terrorist attacks start against our settlements following the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon and its redeployment along the international border, what took place during the war of attrition in the Jordan Valley will take place on the northern border.

Speaking to Labor Party activists in Beersheba last night, the defense minister said that if terrorism takes place against our settlements on the norther border, the IDF will have to use weapons and force in Lebanese territory in order to ensure the safety of our settlements. The defense minster claimed that the Lebanon war has not eliminated terrorism. "Lebanon is full of terrorism and terrorists. PLO terrorism has indeed weakened, but Shi'ite terrorism has intensified," Rabin said. He added that "in 20 years of PLO terrorism, not a single suicide operation was carried out, while during the period the IDF's stay in Lebanon, the Shi'ites carried out six suicide operations against IDF soldiers."

IDF Soldier Wounded in Lebanon Dies 21 March

TA211046 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1042 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Staff Sergeant Yariv Lahav, 21, of Moshav Timmorim, died this morning of wounds he sustained 2 weeks ago in an incident in the Al-Qasimiyah area in Lebanon. The date of the funeral will be announced.

Bank Report Criticizes Government Economic Policy

TA211617 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Mar 85 pp 1, 8

[Report by Tzvi Zinger]

[Text] A report published yesterday by the Bank of Israel points out that despite the government's decisions to cut expenditures, "data shows that the cutbacks effected so far do not correspond to those decisions." The report also strongly criticizes the government's economic policy.

According to the report, if more and greater cuts in government expenditures are not made, the chances of significantly and continuously improving the economic situation are slim. Also, public support, on which the package deal depends, might be undermined.

The report also deals with the two package deals. The first package deal, according to the report, succeeded in creating an atmosphere of calm in the economy. However, it also created price distortions, and did not deal with the basic causes of balance of payments problems and inflation.

The second package deal corrected the distortions in prices and subsidies, but might cause inflation to return on a level higher than that reached during the first package deal.

In the chapter concerning employment during the last few months, the report says that during the current structural change taking place in the economy, a change necessary for true economic recovery, "a certain temporary increase in unemployment is unavoidable."

Energy Minister Returns From European Tour

TA220658 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2145 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 21 Mar (ITIM) -- Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal returned this evening from a visit to Britain and France with a promise from the French secretary of state to the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Industrial Redeployment for Energy to examine the possibility of setting a timetable for checking data; this is in the wake of Israel's request for financing terms for establishing a nuclear power plant at a cost not exceeding that of establishing a coal-operated plant.

Mr Shahal, who also conveyed a personal message to President Mitterrand from Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, talked with the French external relations minister on developments in the region. Following Egyptian President Mubarak's visit to Paris, Shahal's hosts conveyed their impression that Mubarak wants improved relations with Israel.

In Britain, Mr Shahal talked with British Secretary of State for Energy Peter Walker about the plan to supply coal from Britain

to Israel, which was not implemented due to the prolonged coal miners' strike. The British secretary of state promised that coal will indeed be supplied as promised.

Minister Shahal also raised the problem of Britain's surrender to the Arab boycott, and this time the British secretary of state did not deny that such a policy indeed exists.

Mr Shahal also dealt with the dissemination of bonds, and held 15 meetings in this regard, mainly among Jews of North African and Iraqi descent living in Britain.

Bonds worth over 1 million pounds sterling were purchased by Iraqi Jews in a meeting that was held in London last Wednesday evening, Mr Shahal noted with satisfaction.

FRG's Vogel Opposes Arms Sales to Arabs

TA220736 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Mar 85 pp 2, 8

[Report by Ari Rath]

[Text] "The German Socialist Party [SPD] remains firmly opposed to any German arms sales to Arab countries. This is a basic position that was adopted already in the early 1970s and was reaffirmed in 1981 when the SPD was still in power." This was stated yesterday in a special interview with *THE JERUSALEM POST* by the chairman of the SPD Bundestag faction, Hans-Jochen Vogel.

"In fact, this is one of the marked differences between our Middle East policy and that of the ruling CDU/CSU party [Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union]," Vogel stressed, recalling that in July 1982 he had given explicit instructions to deliver a note to this effect to the Saudi government.

Referring to recent statements favouring German arms sales to Arab countries by Bavaria's CSU leader Franz Josef Strauss — an old political rival from the days when Vogel was mayor of Munich in the late 1960s and early 1970s — the SPD leader said it would be unthinkable for a German Socialist to make such a statement. "We in the SPD are far more aware of Israel's sensitive points than the leaders of the Christian Union Party. This is one of the distinct and elementary differences between our parties.

"To illustrate the point, I told some of your leaders yesterday that I shudder at the thought of a German missile or rocket falling on Yad Vashem in Jerusalem," Vogel explained. "Our party also has a clear position against the statute of limitations on Nazi war crimes and on the 'big Auschwitz lie,' though there are not too many people who claim the Auschwitz lie, but the numbers are not important," Vogel said. He was referring to the bill before the Bundestag which would make it a crime to claim Nazis did not murder Jews in the death camps.

Here on a formal visit as guest of Prime Minister Peres in his capacity as chairman of the Labour Party, the German opposition leader's schedule is similar to that of a leading statesman in office. During his first two days here he has already met with President Herzog, Peres, Vice Premier Shamir, Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee Chairman Eban, Jerusalem Mayor Kollek and a number of other political figures.

Vogel said he believes that Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government is closer in its views to the harder line policy of the Likud, although on basic Middle East policy issues Bonn's government and opposition see eye to eye.

With all his sympathy and support for Israel, Vogel did not hide the fact that he and his party also have different views from those held by the Israel government, particularly the two previous Likud administrations. He was gratified to learn here that since the national unity government was formed six months ago practically no new settlements were established in the West Bank, even if the formal explanation is lack of funds.

"We had particular reservations regarding the settlement policy of your previous government and your 'intervention' in Lebanon, so as not to use a stronger term," Vogel said. "We very much welcome your government's decision, by a large majority, to withdraw from Lebanon."

The German SPD leader said he regards this decision as one of Peres's most important successes.

"It is amazing how he succeeded in opening up important political processes, despite the fact that he heads a broad national unity coalition. The revival of ongoing talks with Egypt and the gradual improvement of living conditions in the West Bank are two other important achievements, as is the fact that King Husayn, who has been passive in any peace initiative so far, appears ready now to become involved in the peace process," Vogel stated.

Although he was reluctant to predict the outcome of the recent peace initiatives by Egyptian President Mubarak and Jordan's King Husayn, in coordination with PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Vogel seemed encouraged by what he called the more moderate and more realistic attitude of pro-PLO Palestinians. This impression of Palestinian attitudes was borne out yesterday at a meeting Vogel had in Jericho with former Ramallah mayor Karim Khalaf, who stated clearly that he had no problem with co-existence with Israel within the pre-1967 borders.

"That is not a bad starting position for a pro-PLO Palestinian," Vogel said.

"In recent years, Israel followed a static and hard-line policy which also caused it many problems with its friends in Europe. Now that the political climate has already begun to change under Premier Peres, Israel will regain many of its friends abroad," Vogel stated. Encouraged by regional election results in West Germany earlier this month, particularly in the Saarland and in Frankfurt, Vogel rules out any possibility of forming a grand coalition in Bonn with the CDU/CSU, such as was the case during the years 1966-69, "despite the apparant success of such a broad coalition in Israel under a Labour prime minister.

"First of all, such a move would play directly into the hands of the Greens, whose progress appears to have been halted since voters do not wish just to support a protest party without any

alternative programme. Also, if a broad coalition were to be formed now in Bonn, the SPD would be relegated to the position of a junior partner. Such a coalition would also pose a terrible burden on both big parties. Only a national emergency would justify such a move, as was the case in Israel," Vogel explained.

A man who is used to volunteering to face tough and even almost hopeless challenges, such as standing in the mayoral elections in Berlin some years ago and deciding to accept the SPD's nomination in West Germany's last national elections on ten days' notice, following former chancellor Helmut Schmidt's sudden resignation, the SPD leader sounded confident regarding his political future. "Perhaps there is an omen in the fact that Teddy Kollek asked me to sign his guest book on a page facing the signature of Helmut Kohl," Vogel remarked with a benevolent smile.

Foreign Ministry Protests Swedish Remarks

TA211600 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Israel protested to Sweden against statements made by the Foreign Ministry in Stockholm claiming that Israel is solely responsible for the violence in southern Lebanon. The director of the Foreign Ministry's Europe Division in Jerusalem summoned the Swedish ambassador to his office this morning, and expressed his displeasure at the remarks, saying that they were distorted and that they did not serve any positive purpose.

Leisure Income, Public Spending To Drop

TA211501 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
21 Mar 85 p 5

[Report by Hayim Bi'or]

[Excerpt] The leisure income of Israeli citizens will drop by 7.5 percent in 1985. This is one of the government's main targets for 1985/1986, which Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i presented yesterday.

Appearing at the annual meeting of the CPA Association, Moda'i said that reducing the leisure income of the citizens is part of an effort to reduce local buying power. One of the side effects of this would be that industries that have been manufacturing for the local market on a large scale will turn their efforts toward exporting. In order to reduce buying power, the finance minister noted, it is not enough just to reduce the amount of leisure income. A high level of savings must also be maintained by ensuring that saving is worthwhile. To soothe the economy, steps will now be taken to reduce money printing by the Bank of Israel which, according to Moda'i, has reached enormous proportions due to accumulated debts and government expenditures in excess of its budget. In the same vein, the finance minister noted that in the 1985 budget, expenses exceed debt repayment by $330 to $360 million.

Another aim of the government is to cut back on public spending and reduce subsidies.

Commentator Views Necessity for West Bank Elections

TA211220 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
21 Mar 85 pp 6, 10

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "The Test of Israel's Sincerity: Municipal Elections in the Territories"]

[Text] The sincerity of Israel's declarations that it wants a political settlement on the eastern front based on Reagan's plan or Mubarak's ideas may soon be tested; the test of Israel's sincerity may be its consent or refusal to hold new municipal elections in the territories.

The basic common denominator in the Reagan plan, Mubarak's ideas, and King Husayn's political intentions is keeping the PLO out of the initial stages of the political process. There is no doubt that the PLO's willingness to give its blessing to the political process is a political asset that cannot be forfeited by Jordan, Egypt, the United States, and surely not the Soviet Union. However, due to various considerations extensively discussed in earlier articles, Jordan is not prepared to grant the PLO equal status in the political process, nor is Israeli public opinion ripe to view the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Therefore, although according to the secret understanding between 'Arafat, Husayn, and Mubarak, the PLO leader is ready to go a long way toward recognizing Israel, it is imposible to give this real political expression now, especially since not everyone in the PLO itself is open to easily accepting the political, pragmatic path toward which Yasir 'Arafat is leading the organization.

Following 'Arafat's secret consent to give up the PLO's clear representation in the political process, substantial progress was made in the attempt to set up a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in which the Palestinian side would not be represented by the PLO, but by independent, public figures who would probably be sympathetic toward the PLO and connected with it in behind-the-scenes contacts.

This being the case, the political importance of the territories will instantly grow, since a large number of people in the delegation would come from the territories. (Another part of the delegation would originate in Palestinian exiles; this part may represent the moderate PLO, although this may not necessarily be the case). It is very probable that when the contacts around the establishment of a Palestinian delegation begin to come to life, the commotion in the Palestinian camp will be renewed. The 'Arafat supporters on the one hand, and their opponents in the rejectionist front on the other, will claim that the residents of the territories support their positions. The 'Arafat supporters will say that the notables from the territories participating in the joint delegation express the majority's will, while the rejectionist camp will say that they do not represent anybody, and only general elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will decide who is right.

It is now possible to begin to see what damage was caused to the peace process by the destructive policy practiced in the territories in the days of Menahem Milson [former head of the Civilian Administration, under the Likud government] which left a political vacuum in the territories. The mayors who are supposed to

express the political wants of the inhabitants are actually Israeli officials, such as Zamir Shemesh in Hebron.

This situation is undoubtedly a welcome result from the Likud's point of view. In the absence of elected municipalities, the situation existing in the territories perpetuates the vagueness. With the PLO left to act behind the senes, there cannot be a smooth transition in which its political position will be filled by political figures in the territories, since the rejectionist front can claim that these figures do not represent the Palestinians in their homeland. Also, their emergence as partners to political negotiations with Israel when in their own homes in Hebron, Ramallah, and Al-Birah, they do not enjoy a minimum of self-government — at least not on the level as when they controlled the municipalities — weakens their status at the negotiations table. If Messers Shemesh and Biton (the Israeli mayor of Ramallah) do not allow them to sweep the streets and remove the garbage, what political ground can they stand on?! What political assets do they have in the territories at all?

If Israel is truly interested in continuing the political process with regard to the Palestinian problem and comes across the opportunity of enjoying an emerging agreement not to allow the PLO to participate in the process — at least not in its initial stages — it should immediately initiate political activities intended to straighten the hunched back of the political system in the territories and to somewhat repair the deep fracture created by the Likud's policy and the settlers' evils there. In the framework of the attempt to turn over a new leaf in the territories, there is nothing like holding new elections to municipalities in the West Bank, an act that will place them on the right footing in the political process. It is difficult to see how the current miserable political system in the territories can assume the role assigned it.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's peculiar answer when he explained his refusal to hold new elections in the territories ("when there are democratic elections in the Arab countries, we will hold them in the territories") either places a big question mark over his true intentions regarding the political process, or, he might not have given enough thought to this serious matter.

Defense establishment officers who, from the point of view of daily security, were burned when the 1976 elections resulted in the victory of the "nationalistic blocs" of the "PLO supporters" from which the National Guidance Committee later emerged, have more concrete fears. Colonel Freddy Zakh articulated these fears in *'AL HAMISHMAR* as follows: "Elections in the territories result in radicalization." In other words, the opening of a sharp political campaign would end the calm political atmosphere in the territories, stir things up, silence the moderates, and put the extremists, such as the members of the National Guidance Committee, in control of the Arab street.

However, this approach is not comprehensive; this is a narrow approach that takes an extremely grave view of a marginal security phenomena such as stone throwing. Even if promoting the peace process involves more stones being thrown and a resumption of mass demonstrations accompanied by the burning of tires, it still seems that the price is worth it. A local leadership that is supported by the Palestinian man in the street is an asset to the political process since it strengthens the importance of the "inside" Palestinians at the expense of the "outside" PLO leadership. The attitude toward the National Guidance Committee as an "extremist" organization at the time did not stem so much from its declamatory positions as from the great power it enjoyed from the Palestinian man in the street, in its ability to organize demonstrations and the throwing of stones at vehicles on the roads. Some, however, did notice that its political positions were very moderate. Thanks to its strong communist flank it ruled out armed struggle and recognized Israel within the 1967 borders, as well as UN Security Council Resolution 242. This is exactly what is necessary for the political process today: An internal leadership in the territories with the reputation and prestige of a "fighter against the occupation" while espousing a moderate political ideology, at the very same time.

When one examines the true ratio of power in the Palestinian streets in the territories, the inevitable conclusion is that this time the National Guidance Committee would not have the upper hand, and it would be defeated in elections. The committee was torn to pieces, and not necessarily because of the Israeli police but because of the interbloc alignment and inter-Arab struggles. The various groups that made up the committee in the past are today gathered in what is called the "Democratic Alliance" which is an alliance of the supporters of George Habash, Nayif Hawatimah, and the Palestinian Communists, but it is doubtful whether one today finds the same conditions to keep them firmly united, as existed in the late 1970's, when the committee was set up. The Palestinian Communists will not be able to oppose a political line that has the Soviet Union's blessing. Since the Soviet Union has consistently supported a solution to the Palestinian problem along the 'Arafat-Jordan lines, contrary to the Syrian position, due to superpower considerations, when the hour of the real test comes the Communists will not be able to remain in the same camp as the supporters of George Habash. However, the supporters of George Habash and Nayif Hawatimah will also have difficulty operating within a single framework since the Habash supporters will aspire to aid Syria together with the supporters of Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], while the Hawatimah supporters will continue their policy of strengthening their alliance with the 'Arafat supporters.

The major difficulties among the Palestinian leftists have already left their marks in the territories, with the two former leaders of the National Guidance Committee, Bassam al-Shak'ah of Nabulus and Karim Khalaf of Ramallah, finding themselves on two opposing sides: While Bassam al-Shak'ah is increasing his opposition to the 'Arafat policy, Karim Khalaf is clearly standing on the side of 'Arafat.

If one translates these bits and pieces into specific political facts, the inevitable conclusion is that in possible future elections control of Ramallah would pass from the National Guidance Committee to the 'Arafat supporters. Bassam al-Shak'ah of Nabulus has remained a very prestigious leader but his victory in the elections would not at all be guaranteed. This time he would be unable to compete on behalf of the PLO, as was the case in the 1976 elections. The credentials of this dismissed mayor have now been exposed; everybody knows he does not represent the PLO but rather the pro-Syrian left wing. If in 1976 Bassam al-Shak'ah could build up power thanks to the PLO and to set up a "nationalistic" list which was composed also of his

political opponents — the Al-Masri family members — today Al-Shak'ah would have to compete against the Al-Masri family; it is precisely the members of this family who would enjoy the PLO's prestige and conduct their battle against Bassam al-Shak'ah under the flag and picture of 'Arafat.

In Hebron also the Palestinian left would be unable to come up with a prestigious candidtae. In 1976 it put the prestigious communist leader, Dr Ahmad Hamdi al-Natshah, at the head of the nationalistic bloc, and it was only due to his expulsion by Israel that his deputy, Fahd al-Qawasimi, moved into the leadership of the list. However, there were "nationalistic blocs" at the time that blurred the differences between left and right, a brilliant "trick" which the Palestinian left would not be able to repeat; in Hebron also it is likely that 'Arafat's candidate, like deposed Mayor Mustafa 'Abd al-Nabi al-Natshah, would win.

So the condition of the "extremists" — the remnants of the National Guidance Committee — in the large towns is bad and it is very probable they woudl not be able to compete against those chosen by the joint Jordanian-PLO committee. An expression for Bassam al-Shak'ah's weakness in Nabulus can be found even these days. In a graduation ceremony at the Al-Najah University recently he was not invited to sit on the dais or deliver a speech. The "star" of the ceremony was the university's leader, Bassam al-Shak'ah's strong opponent, Hikmat al-Masri.

Later the joint committee decided to stop paying the wages of the municipal workers who followed Bassam al-Shak'ah and left their offices after their leader was dismissed by Israel. After Nabulus, the joint committee stopped paying salaries to all municipalities previously controlled by the National Guidance Committee. In the past, when Bassam al-Shak'ah was powerful, the joint committee would not have dared set out in such a manner against the person who is (mistakenly) considered the PLO's man in the territories. Today Bassam al-Shak'ah is unable to help the municipal workers who have been deprived of their wages; it is exactly his fiercest opponents, the Al-Masri family members — by means of their control of the Chamber of Commerce — who approach Jordan and the PLO on the workers' behalf. They know why their wages were stopped and who to thank if their wages are to be repaid, if at all.

When a peace-seeking Israeli Government considers the chances and risks inherent in holding new elections in the territories, it should not fear the "extremists" If reference is to the former National Guidance Committee, it is not so "radical," nor would it be able this time to stand up to 'Arafat.

Lusophone Information Ministers Begin Meeting
MB220551 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] The first meeting of information ministers of the five Portuguese-speaking African countries began in Maputo today. The meeting, attended by Mozambique, Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, and Sao Tome and Principe was opened by Mozambican Information Minister Jose Luis Cabaco.

The meeting will make a survey of technical and human resources available in each country, including communication facilities, and abroad as well as a survey of bilateral or multilateral cooperation already existing between the five countries. The heads and officials of information from the five countries will also identify the priority areas of cooperation at the level of new agencies, press, radio, television, and film, among others.

African Parliamentary Union Conference Opens
AB212100 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The eighth conference of the African Parliamentary Union was declared open this morning by the head of state, Abdou Diouf. The theme of the conference is development in Africa at the end of the 20th century.

In his opening address on the occasion, President Abdou Diouf said the topics of the session, which focus on development of technology, industrialization of Africa, as well as scientific and technical education in development, are linked to the (?practice) of democracy on the continent.

Franc Zone Finance Ministers To Meet in Niamey
AB202150 Paris AFP in French 1229 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Niamey, 20 Mar (AFP) — The 43d meeting of the ministers of economy and finance of the franc zone member-states is scheduled to take place in Niamey on 28 March, a governmental source disclosed yesterday in the Niger capital.

The meeting, which will be preceded by a working session held by experts of the member-states, will enable an exchange of views on the economic situation in the various countries of the franc zone, the same source said. It will also enable the member-countries to harmonize their positions in view of the meetings to be held with the provisional committee of the International Monetary Fund and the Development Committee of the World Bank, which are expected to take place in April, the same source added.

ALGERIA

PRC Trade Delegation Discusses Cooperation

LD211131 Algiers APS in English 1002 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Algiers, 21-3-85 (APS) — The works of the first session of the Algero-Chinese joint commission were sanctioned on Wednesday by the signature of a proceedings by Abdelaziz Khellef C.C. member, Minister of Trade and Zhang Jingfu, deputy prime minister of the People's Republic of China. This proceedings notably started the [words indistinct] of the two sides to find solutions to pending problems in the field of economic and financial cooperation, to reinforce this cooperation, to achieve some industrial projects and to use the available credits in order to widen this cooperation.

Concerning the commercial exchanges, they will be increased and diversified and 1985 will be characterized by the balance of economic and commercial exchanges between the two countries. The proceedings also expects the reinforcement of technical, scientific and cultural cooperation.

In the end, the two ministers expressed their satisfaction over the results of these works which show the aspirations of the two friendly countries and estimated that this meeting was an occasion to reinforce, by work, the secular friendship and cooperation links between the two countries.

LIBYA

AL-SAFIR Interviews Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi

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[First of two parts of interview with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by Talal Salman, with the participation of Muhammad Mashmushi, Sa'd Mahyu, Hassan Haydar, and Yasir Ni'mah; in Al-Qadhdhafi's tent in Libya — date not given]

[Text] *AL-SAFIR*: There is a problem facing all the Arab officials and leaders — learned people, journalists, writers, and politicians, of course. The problem can be summed up by saying that to regain Egypt, one must work with the Egyptians, specifically with the Egyptian nationalist and progressive forces which say that there is a difference between Al-Sadat's era and Mubarak's era and that the latter has given them a margin of freedom. The question is, how can one approach these forces away from the regime, especially in a country like Egypt where the state is something very big; that is, the state is actually ruling.

The real problem is that with Egypt's absence, a basic part of the active forces in the area is absent and idle and, indeed is employed to a certain extent on the other side. Work without Egypt is difficult, and work with it is impossible in the present circumstances. Regaining Egypt is difficult until further notice. In your assessment, how can this problem be resolved and how can we penetrate Egypt and regain it?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I do not believe that the forces present on the surface, and which have been given the legitimacy of action by the Egyptian regime, can rescue Egypt. On the contrary, they prolong the life of the regime because they counterbalance the regime. Just as Mubarak is giving the opposition legitimacy, the opposition is giving him the legitimacy of being an acceptable democratic and popular regime.

An opposition of this kind is dangerous because it prolongs the life of this vicious regime. When Al-Sadat created the opposition, he did so on this basis. It gave him legitimacy just as he had given it legitimacy. The regime gave the opposition legitimacy and it gave the regime the legitimacy of continued existence. After that, all the talk between them is of no importance and does not change anything in the regime, which is proceeding along its course.

The problem now is that Egypt does not need talk, opposition, or newspapers to rescue it; it needs a material factor. Egypt has mortgaged itself to the United States and Israel. Egypt waits for 3 months to receive U.S. wheat. Instead of Egypt exporting wheat, the open-door policy has paralyzed its production. Its resources have been paralyzed and its budget has become dependent on U.S. aid. This is the condition to which the United States is seeking to subject Egypt or any other state. The U.S. objective is to subjugate all the peoples.

The United States is seeking to be the representative of the globe. It even wants to eliminate the Soviet Union. It is seeking to be the only one. It is proceeding with the subjugation of the world, state by state. Egypt has fallen prey to this trend. Washington sought to bring Egypt to the stage where Egypt would need the United States. Egypt has actually reached this stage and it is now controlling Egypt as a puppet show. The United States is holding the strings and is manipulating Egypt up and down, to the right, to the left. Indeed, Egypt has reached this plateau. The United States will never elevate Egypt to such an extent that it could defeat the Israelis. The United States is hampering Egypt in such a way that it would not rearm itself from the Soviet Union. The United States can do anything with Egypt and it can hamper Egypt's war production at home, telling it: We will arm you, we are your friends.

For Egypt to reach the stage where it puts itself in U.S. hands as regards arms means that the United States is dictating its policy to Egypt and controlling it in such a way as not to generate any harm to the Israelis. If it gives Egypt arms, it guides it as it wants, possibly to fight Libya.

Incidentally, we have received a report from Egypt confirming how Mubarak is cooperating with the United States and is carrying out its wishes. The report speaks about directing a military blow to Libya. This was stated by his prime minister, Kamal Hasan 'Ali, to a person he believed to be hostile to us. When Hasan 'Ali learned from his foreign minister that the person is a friend of Al-Qadhdhafi, he was stunned, tried to circumvent what he had said, stating that war with Libya is useless and that there would be no winner or loser in it, etc.; but it was too late. That person had already heard from 'Ali that Mubarak is in the process of preparing something of this sort (a military blow).

However, now that the Egyptian regime has placed its fate in its hands, the United States is controlling it from the military standpoint. It is arming Egypt to such a degree that it can only harrass Libya or any other Arab country, but always to a degree much weaker than that of the Israelis.

The same thing applies to the economic aspect as well. The United States is turning Egypt into a consumer market for American commodities, which is hampering Egypt's production. It has made the people quit production and agriculture and in other areas, and turn into brokers and bidders, and offering services. However, how do the needy benefit from hotels? What is the advantage of huge automobiles to the Egyptian people? Who uses these automobiles? Even the morsel of food is now in U.S. hands.

Therefore, the question does not need opposition and newspapers as much as it needs a material factor that will end Egypt's subservience to the United States. It is real imperialism; the United States has in effect colonized Egypt since the latter is now completely in U.S. hands. Consequently, the present opposition is benefiting the regime and is not doing anything else. Thus reliance should not be on the people who are on the surface now, but on other unknown rejectionist forces who are really known. These forces are not found in the chorus of the current opposition. There should either be a military strike against the regime or a popular rebellion manifested in demonstrations, sit-ins, civil disobedience, and insubordination. The situation will collapse as happened in Iran. Nothing else will rescue Egypt. Egypt is daily giving 40,000 barrels of oil to Israel in addition to chemicals and iron. Israel in turn is using these to make bombs and as fuel for its planes, which are bombarding Lebanon, and for the tanks which are trampling down families in southern Lebanon. The fuel used is Egyptian since Israel is receiving 40,000 barrels of Egyptian oil daily.

Moreover, normalization is proceeding excellently in terms of tourism and trade. It is sufficient to give culture as an example. Israel has recently participated in the book fair. I have also read a report which says that the conditions which prevailed in the seventies have ended and that in Egypt there is no longer that hostile spirit toward the Israelis.

Mubarak is continuing along this course. The Arab countries, which are flirting with him and breaking the boycott around him, are actually encouraging him to continue along this course. This is not right. The best means is by continuing the boycott. But be sure something will appear from people totally different from those we know.

AL-SAFIR: But there is the Nasirite Party which had been put on trial and which is expected to be sentenced on 23 March?

Al-Qadhdhafi: He is also employing Nasirism to serve the regime. The worst thing is that Nasirism should be among the components which complement the fascist regime in Egypt and among the groups over which the Israeli flag was raised. It has also accepted Israel and recognized its legitimacy. In the past when Nasirism was banned, the situation was better; but now, when the Nasirites have become a party and part of the opposition, it means that they have become a party to the game, and this is not good. The last thing that should have happened is for Nasirism to be employed in Israel's interest. This is an exploitation of 'Abd al-Nasir's name. 'Abd al-Nasir did not believe in parties. We, the Arab Nasirites, refuse to join this party because, if we do, it means that we have recognized Husni Mubarak's regime and Israel. This is impossible. There is not a real Nasirite who accepts that Nasirism should give legitimacy to Mubarak's regime, which has recognized Israel.

AL-SAFIR: This means that you want complete estrangement with the regime and that pressure be put on it by the national forces from inside and outside?

Al-Qadhdhafi: This is true. I am sure that there are very extremist groups who will punish anyone who extends his hand to Husni Mubarak's regime. For example, any prince or oil shaykh who comes to Egypt with the aim of visiting or investing money will pay the price, I am sure. Extremist people will appear who will impose a siege. There will also be threats to the Arabs who join hands with Mubarak.

AL-SAFIR: There are other forces that can be considered as having an influence on the Egyptian man in the street — the religious current, the nationalist current, the traditional Egyptian national movement among whose symbols, for example, is the people's party, which you have called the current Egyptian folklore. In the course of what you have said, can the religious current, which proved itself and its effectiveness by executing Al-Sadat, arrive at the same stance of estrangement with the regime? In other words, can a kind of secret rapprochement be created in the future between the nationalist forces and the religious forces to form a nucleus for a movement of change in Egypt?

Al-Qadhdhafi: This is possible. This is a possibility I expect. Husni Mubarak has humiliated Egypt by throwing himself in America's lap to this degree, particularly by his recent visit to the United States. He has greatly insulted Egypt and the Egyptian people. He was received by the U.S. deputy secretary of state, but 3 days passed before he was received by the U.S. President, who crossed his legs and said: I do not approve of your initiative. What did he gain from this? He has harmed Egypt's reputation.

In fact I sent letters to the Arab rulers after Mubarak's visit in which I said: After throwing ourselves into the United States' lap for such a long time, and after our oil poured into the United States and enriched its economic and capitalist establishments, as well as enriched the American banks with Arab money — after all this time, we now come and ask the United States to approve an Arab delegation that includes Palestinians. It refuses because the Palestinian is banned, as far as the United States is concerned, and meeting with him is forbidden. What has the Palestinian done to be regarded by the United States — the superpower hostile to the Palestinian people — as an outcast. The Palestinian people have been driven out of their land and are now being hunted down outside their land. They live in camps after having been displaced. How can they be criminals? Who is the criminal? The one who owns the missile and the plane and is mowing down defenseless people? Or the Palestinian refugees?

I am telling them: Have you no shame? However, I am against taking this cause to the United States. It is not our patron, nor is it the world's policeman. To hell with the United States. The issue will only be solved on Arab soil, in Palestine, and with our own efforts. I am against the visit to the United States, against this disgraceful attitude, and against referring the issue to the United States, or discussing it with it. In fact, I do not give a damn whether the United States agrees or not.

What if the United States agrees to a Palestinian delegation? Would this mean that the Palestinian problem is solved? The Palestinian problem should be solved here in the area.

I, for my part, reject this attitude. However, those who believe in it have come down to this level. There are still Arabs who go to the United States and make requests.

I am saying to them: Please, for a day, let the Arabs have some dignity and say: We no longer need you, United States. You are boycotting the Palestinians and we vow to boycott anything that has to do with you — American cars, goods, friendship, etc.

The Americans think they should not meet the Palestinians. What is the crime of the Palestinians? What did they do to the United States? The Palestinian, is he a Hitler? He is the victim of what Hitler has done. Now is the time for the world to sympathize with the Palestinians. Now it is the Israelis who are strong and murderous and who are out to kill and destroy.

Would not the Arabs for once keep their dignity and say to the Americians: We have given you money, licked your boots, told you that one of our peoples is suffering, and asked you to meet with it, and you refused and treated it as a pariah.

Would not they stand up for themselves for once and divorce the United States for good. I am telling them: Unless you do this, I who am already blacklisted and branded as an international terrorist, swear by Almighty God that I will take it upon myself to thwart this defeatism and make the Arabs dignified for once. By God Almighty, I will take up my responsibility and start terrorism against Arab rulers. I will threaten and terrify them. I will sever relations and sever their heads one by one, if I can. I am a terrorist when the dignity of this people is at stake.

Damascus Meeting

AL-SAFIR: There have been talks about a meeting for the steadfastness and confrontation front in Damascus on 20 March.

Al-Qadhdhafi: No, it is not a meeting of the steadfastness and confrontation front, but to discuss the unity I am proposing. There should be a ready unity between the Arab countries. The idea is currently being discussed with Algeria, Syria, and the PDRY.

The 20 March meeting is to sketch a blueprint for unity among those countries, in addition to the Arab-African union between Libya and Morocco.

AL-SAFIR: Will Algeria take part in the meeting?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Yes, it agreed to take part.

AL-SAFIR: Will it join the union?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Algeria said it is ready for a merger with Libya.

The Tripoli Meeting

AL-SAFIR: Would any Palestinians attend the Damascus meeting?

Al-Qadhdhafi: No, it is for states only. However, on 28 March the pan-Arab command of the revolutionary forces will hold a meeting and some Arab quarters have backed this cause and will be invited to attend the command's meeting in Tripoli.

AL-SAFIR: This command, as we understand it, will include, besides you, Palestinian groups, militant Lebanese groups, and other Arabs. Considering the diversity involved, do you think that such a command can grow into a revolutionary political entity? Do you believe that these groups can melt together well enough to act within a unified political program?

Al-Qadhdhafi: We have to take this initiative to confront the deteriorating Arab situation. Let us hope for the best.

AL-SAFIR: Does this mean that you are going on parallel lines, one on the state level and one on the level of the revolutionary forces?

Al-Qadhdhafi: The states are moving toward unity. While the revolutionary forces in the Arab world are gathering under a pan-Arab command to continue the struggle, the battle is no longer between the Lebanese national democratic movement on the one hand and the United States and Israel on the other. It is not a battle between "Amal" and the Israelis; between Libya and the United States, as in the Gulf of Sidra; between Aden and the United States, or between Syria and Israel. No, let it be clear that the battle is between the revolutionary forces in the Arab world and the United States.

AL-SAFIR: Stressing the pan-Arab character of the battle!

Al-Qadhdhafi: Yes, all these revolutionary forces are taking part in whichever battle and on whichever front that will conclude the battle in favor of the Arab cause. The enemies should be made to understand that they are not fighting us separately. They have to know that they are fighting one people whose revolutionary forces are operating under a unified command, and that fighting any one of these forces will be fighting them all, and that this is what they have to base their calculations upon. So long as the Arab governments are incapable of managing a collective defense of the Arab world, the revolutionary forces should take the initiative and form a collective defense for the Arab people.

AL-SAFIR: According to our information, King Hassan II will be in Tripoli on 28 March.

Al-Qadhdhafi: I do not think that Hassan II will be in Tripoli at that time. His visit may take place earlier.

AL-SAFIR: How can we fit together such matters as the quest for [Libya's] immediate merger with Syria, Algeria, and the PDRY, its union with Morocco, and the pan-Arab command of the revolutionary forces?

Al-Qadhdhafi: The pan-Arab command of the revolutionary forces is a separate issue. It is neither official nor related to countries. The other matters have to do with countries. Libya and Morocco are members of a union whose treaty allows them to unite or merge with a third country that may also join the original union.

Moroccan Forces ... and the Union

AL-SAFIR: Supposing Moroccan opposition took part in the pan-Arab command, would there not be a contradiction?

Al-Qadhdhafi: If it is to fight the Israelis, I do not think any objection will be raised. But Libya now does not allow fighting or conspiring against Hassan II. We do not accept or participate in any action against Hassan II after he has put his hand in ours and signed the union treaty with us. He has launched a union with us that self-proclaimed progressive revolutioanries have failed to launch. We will not back up and must not encourage anyone against him. Nevertheless, social interaction in Morocco, as in Libya, is left to the Libyans and to the Moroccans themselves. If Moroccans want to change their system, we will not veto them. If the farmers and workers there won their freedom and became aprtners, it is their right — he who hires a car may keep it, and he who rents a house may own it. Such are internal developments, the same as in Libya. What interests us is our union.

AL-SAFIR: How far has the practical implementation of the Libyan-Moroccan union gone?

Al-Qadhdhafi: It is moving ahead. During the past phase we have made the laws and regulations. What remains is to create the institutions. The federal board, the federal secretary, and the presidential council have all been formed, and a federal tribune will also be set up. I am hoping that the map can be changed and that the door may by opened for a unity that allows for differences. Take the Soviet Union for example. Different languages, different nationalities, and different continents, and still a federation evolved. What brought them together is common ideology, the Marxist-Leninism. Every Soviet oblast, every republic, is a true replica of the other oblasts and republics. This similarity can be seen all the way up to the Soviet Presidium. The same thing is true in Yugoslavia. On the one hand, we find the same diversity of languages, nationalities, and religions. On the other hand, we find the Yugoslav League of Communists.

We come to the Arab homeland and find the situation completely reversed. There are different economic and political — ideological — systems. There are monarchial, republican, jamahiri, sultanate, socialist, and capitalist systems. However, on the other side of the coin we find one people, one nation, one history, and a common fate. I am trying to benefit from the other side of the coin vis-a-vis other states hoping to realize unity. They ask us how we can realize unity among Arab states with conflicting systems. We say: Well, there are many basic things in common among these states. There exists one people, one nation, and one language. We say, for example, that different ethnics and languages were able to form one state in Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union. The answer is that something else, ideology, united them. The same is true among the Arabs. Their conflicting states can unite because they are one people, one religion, etc.

Federated State

AL-SAFIR: Will the economic basis for this be economic integration, for example, and common interests in addition to Arab affiliation?

Al-Qadhdhafi: We believe that it is possible to establish a federated Arab state that will be able to realize Arab national interests — defense of the Arab homeland, pan-Arab investment of Arab resources, and defining the Arab personality at the international level as a single entity that speaks one language to the world. However, each state will have the freedom to choose its own system. One might be a monarchy, one an emirate, and one republican. We are not concerned with internal interactions. This state is a member of the union and it has a republican system. Suppose there is a coup in it and it becomes a monarchist system. What interests us is that it remains a member of the union. They have made that state a monarchy, let them make it a monarchy. This is something that concerns that particular state. Another monarchist state in the union might change into a republican or a jamahiri one. This, too, concerns its own people; but what interests us is its membership in the union.

If we reach this formula, then the Arab countries will be assured that they can unite with each other without some condition existing for changing their systems. What we had wanted was an ideal — that these systems change to become a replica of the original [tibqa al-asl]. But after having taken a step in this direction, we have found that these various systems will not become replicas of the original even if they change. There was a revolution in Aden. There were revolutions in Syria, Iraq, Sudan, Libya, and Algeria. But we still have conflicting systems, that is, new and progressive but regional ones. This is no different from the status that existed when that state was ruled by a king, another by an emir, and a third by an imam. Has there not been a revolution in Sanaa and another one in Aden? Are they not still conflicting systems? It is the same as if an imam is ruling here and the English are ruling there. Hence, a revolution might not lead to a solution. This is not guaranteed. There have been revolutions in some Arab countries, but they have not united. Wrangling and conflicts began between them. We are opening a door for a possible union among Arab states with conflicting systems without a prior condition existing for changing their systems.

AL-SAFIR: Like an Arab league?

Al-Qadhdhafi: No. Union, not an Arab league. A real federated state is established that will issue unified executive decisions. The Arab League does not issue executive decisions within each country.

AL-SAFIR: That is, gradually a single state?

Al-Qadhdhafi: What is important is that a union is established among the Arab states without being dependent on changes in individual systems. This should be left to the people of each state — whether they want it to be a monarchy, or a republic, or a jamahiriyah, or a sultanate. This option must be chosen in light of current developments; otherwise, the Arab nation itself will face the danger of breaking into small nations. The reason for thinking about the Balkanization of the Arab homeland is the lack of a trend toward unity. Every state is changing into a nation. A recently issued analysis said that the state is gaining ascendancy over the nation in the Arab homeland.

AL-SAFIR: Is it not more logical that this practical unionist concept should exist between Libya and Syria and not between Libya and Morocco?

Al-Qadhdhafi: We used to believe in this logic. We have repeatedly proposed this unity. When Algeria objected to our establishing a union with Morocco without them, we told them: We reached Oujda through Jarbah (in Tunisia) and through Hassi Messaoud. In fact, I did not reach Oujda except through Jarbah which is nearer to me. I said: Let us have unity and we signed [the Jarbah declaration]. I then went to Algeria. It is a progressive country and similar to us, etc. I signed a union with them in Hassi Messaoud. They rejected unity for 15 years. When Hassan extended his hand to establishing union was I to tell him: No, let us wait until Algeria wakes up and joins a union with us. I do not want to impede unity for the sake of one country which has refused unity. We should have achieved unity between us and Syria a long time ago. The first unity we had was with Syria, the Union of Arab Republics. We have been proposing a union between the two countries since the 11th anniversary of the [Libyan] revolution. We cannot impede unity. But as to him who came to the striving earnestly, of him wast thou unmindful. [Koranic verse] You should respond to the one who seeks you.

AL-SAFIR: Will Saudi Arabia join such a union?

Al-Qadhdhafi: In my opinion, there must be an Arab union involving all conflicting views. Let us leave Saudi Arabia to the Saudis; if they want to alter their regime, they are free to do so. What concerns us is that Saudi Arabia be in the union. If the Libyans want to change their regime, they are free to do so. What concerns us is Libya's membership in the union. Similarly, the Sudanese, Tunisians, Iraqis, and Moroccans are all free to change their regimes if they wish. What we want is to have them in the union. The changes should be internal.

AL-SAFIR: Beyond the moral effects of union membership, what about material effects; how would these be implemented on the ground?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Just as in any other federal state. Its resources, potentials, and efforts should be unified. This should be reflected in all areas and not merely in specific fields.

The Sudanese Regime

AL-SAFIR: When will the regime in Sudan fall?

Al-Qadhdhafi: It has already fallen. I am sure you've heard of recent events there. For our part, we prefer not to say anything about Sudan at present, because every word we say is being exploited. The Sudanese regime sometimes takes a sound step, but when we say that this is true, it says no, simply because Al-Qadhdhafi said it had.

AL-SAFIR: Is it true you offered to give Numayri money, as he said?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I swear that at that moment, and from a purely Arab point of view, I disregarded my dispute with Numayri and with Sudan. What is the difference between Sudan and Libya, after all? Motivated by a purely Arab stand, I was provoked when the United States cut its aid to Sudan because it did not approve of the situation in Sudan or of Numayri's measures, and felt that Sudan should be punished. This really provoked me. Despite the regime in Sudan, I said: May evil befall the United States. I told Sudan: I can give you millions without any humiliation. Despite the problems that exist between us, we still oppose the humiliation of others. I don't want a foreign state to humiliate an Arab state, even if I differ with the latter. This prompted the United States to change its stand the next day. The United States then said that it had not cut its aid, and so did West Germany. Numayri, however, said something about money in exchange for turning over "stray dogs." This was a base action. I never offered money in return for the "stray dogs." Who are these dogs? No one opposes me. I am not the head of a party, or the president of a republic, or a prime minister, who can be replaced. He who opposes our political regime will be opposing the people's congresses and committees. He will be opposing 3,000 congresses. In other words, he will be opposing all of the Libyan people. The Libyans are aware that he who opposes the political regime will be opposing them. In other words, he will be nullifying all of the congresses and committees. If I were the ruler, then one who opposed me could come and say that he opposes Al-Qadhdhafi. But, as far as I am concerned, I can leave Libya at any time, for I have nothing to do with authority.

The Resistance in the South

AL-SAFIR: Syrian-Libyan relations are having a strong impact in the Lebanese and Palestinian arenas. How could these relations help to create new Palestinian resistance, and how could the relations between Syria and Libya have positive effects on the situation in Lebanon, on both the official and popular levels?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Actually, the confrontation and combat operations there depend upon Syria and Libya. However, Syria's situation does not permit us to ask for whatever we want from it. We cannot ask Syria to do what it is supposed to do. Still, our unified stand and the unity in Syrian-Libyan action are the basis for the Palestinian and Lebanese resistance. Had Syria's situation been different, we would have asked it to do more. Thus, the brunt of the burden falls on Libya's shoulders, as it is in a different situation.

AL-SAFIR: Is Syria being subjected to a blockade?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Naturally. We must not risk rendering the situation affecting Syria any worse.

Regional Groups and Comprehensive Unity

AL-SAFIR: You have declared support for the creation of Arab regional groups such as the GCC, the great Arab Maghreb, and Egypt and Sudan. Doesn't that run counter to the concept of comprehensive Arab unity?

Al-Qadhdhafi: No, all of them seek to bring the day of a comprehensive union closer. It is better to have four Arab states than to have 20, because these four states can more easily agree in the future to form a federation.

AL-SAFIR: In the Arab Gulf today there can be seen the dangerous emergence of what could be termed "Gulf nationalism." Slogans, songs, all are about the Gulf, always the Gulf... In any event, there is no council, no cooperation, and relations among Gulf countries are characterized every day by a battle over an inch of sand.

Al-Qadhdhafi: The fact is that the Iraqi-Iranian war has strengthened pan-Arab feeling in the region and has rendered the Gulf area more in need of the Arab nation than ever before. I talked to the Kuwaitis and I told their foreign minister: You have become national unionists. He said: No, we are bedouins and the original Arabs. I said: But this was not the case before, when we talked about Arab nationalism and Arab unity. Thanks be to God, to the Iranian Revolution, and to Khomeyni, who rendered you national unionists. My opinion is that there is a benefit to be derived from this war, for it has strengthened the pan-Arab feeling. I call upon the GCC to become a federal state, to fill the vacuum and to permit the region to defend itself. This is what I have proposed to them.

AL-SAFIR: Yet the differences continue.

Al-Qadhdhafi: They have no choice but unity, because they are in danger. The entire Arab nation is in danger, particularly the Gulf. They have no choice but to unite or to strengthen the GCC and turn it into a state, etc. Otherwise, they can be swallowed one by one by anyone who travels through the area.

The Gulf War

AL-SAFIR: The Gulf war has almost finished its 5th year. This war of attrition has almost finished off both the Iraqi and Iranian peoples. Is there a possibility of ending this war? What is the role to be played by Jamahiriyah in that respect? Will continued war negatively affect relations between the Jamahiriyah and Iran?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I don't believe that there is a possibility of ending the war. We would have already exploited this possibility had it existed. There is no longer any possibility of ending it. First, Iran refuses to stop the war. It won't talk about the subject and is determined to pursue it to the end. The war has also served a number of purposes, including the creation of financial straits among the Gulf states that have burned up all of their funds. The United States, the socialist countries, France, Brazil, and Argentina have all benefited from the sale of weapons. All of the world's countries are benefiting from this war, each in its own way and on the basis of its own interests. The countries selling weapons do not want the war to end. France, for example, has become a war merchant, now benefiting from a brisk market. The superpowers are testing new weapons. Those who want to weaken Iran and prevent it from becoming a major power are encouraging this war, as are those who want to destroy Iraq's strength and prevent the existence of a second reserve force in the Arab region that could be used against the Israelis someday. Each party has an interest. In addition to that, the United States does not want Iran to be strong and revolutionary and to spread its effects through the region, or to see its suicidal fedayeen action reach Jerusalem and Palestine. Neither does it want it to be so weak that the Soviet Union could penetrate to warm waters through it. This means that each of the big powers is managing affairs just as it wishes. Naturally, this has its effects on the oil market and on the black market in weapons. Those who sell weapons and cannot sell them directly to Iran are offering them on the black market, knowing that someone will snap them up quickly.

Relations With Iran

AL-SAFIR: What about relations between Iran and the Jamahiriyah?

Al-Qadhdhafi: In fact, I used to incite the Iranians to act against the shah. I cannot betray this revolution. Iran was opposed to the Arabs and Palestine and was allied with the Israelis and South Africa. Even worse, Iran was a zone of U.S. influence. The revolution rescued Iran from all of these ordeals and caused it to side with the Palestinian cause and the Arab nation and to oppose imperialism. It is not possible for anyone to betray this revolution. This is fundamental. We used to incite the Iranians to act against the shah. All of the Arabs were silent, because they were being bribed by the shah. Even Saddam Husayn signed a document with the shah by which he conceded sovereignty over Shatt Al-'Arab. Former Pakistani Prime Minister Bhutto told me that when he visited the shah he asked him about the situation in Iran. The shah told Bhutto: Go and ask your friend Al-Qadhdhafi. The shah said: It is Al-Qadhdhafi who is behind the bombings and it is he who creates problems for me by instigating the Iranians against me, using his radio. I have met with Iranians who were in prison. They told me that they used to listen to my speeches. We cannot betray the Iranian Revolution.

The New Soviet Leadership

AL-SAFIR: Gorbachev is the new Soviet leader. What are your expectations as to his action's toward the Arab area, his views of Soviet-Libyan relations, and his policies toward the tense international situation?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I don't think that there will be any changes in the Soviet stand on the Arab and international situations. Soviet policy is firm, regardless of changes in leadership.

AL-SAFIR: But when Andropov came to power there was strong Soviet support for the Arab cause, particularly Syria.

Al-Qadhdhafi: I don't think there will be any changes. The Soviet stand is not that of Brezhnev, or Andropov, or Chernenko, or Gorbachev; it is that of the Soviet Union. All Soviet leaders pursue the same position. It is not a question of individuals.

AL-SAFIR: What about your relations with France?

Al-Qadhdhafi: They are good.

AL-SAFIR: Did you meet with President Mitterrand in Morocco?

Al-Qadhdhafi: No, I met him in Crete for the first time.

AL-SAFIR: It has been said that you held a secret meeting in Morocco.

Al-Qadhdhafi (interrupting): No. First of all, I refuse to hold secret meetings. It is not true that this happened, because I reject secret meetings or negotiations. We are not thugs. King Hassan proposed that we meet in France or Malta to discuss the question of unity. I told him that it would not be appropriate for us to sign an accord on Arab unity in a foreign country. Is our land occupied? If you cannot come to Libya, I can go to Morocco. I proposed that we hold the meeting in Oujda. He even proposed that the meeting be secret. I said no, if we have to meet we should do it publicly. I do not meet secretly with any head of state. Al-Sadat went secretly to Moscow and he announced it only when he returned.

AL-SAFIR: What are the developments in the Chadian situation, following the French troops' withdrawal and the escalation of the opposition?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Habre will certainly fall.

Aid to Lebanon

AL-SAFIR: One last question about Lebanon. A part of Lebanese territory has been liberated. The rest will presumably also be liberated.

Lebanon is currently suffering from a state of famine. This is more dangerous and uglier than predicted. The economic situation has completely paralyzed the country, reaching a state of genuine famine.

Frankly, the Lebanese believe that the Arabs have dissociated themselves from the Lebanese crisis while the Lebanese are waging the most honorable pan-Arab battle. The Lebanese believe that the Arabs do not consider the Lebanese issue a cause for pan-Arab commitment.

Why doesn't the Jamahiriyah, and why don't you personally, take the initiative and call for collective Arab action for Lebanon, similar to the Marshal plan, to rebuild the country and the south, particularly?

Al-Qadhdhafi: This is the duty of all Arabs. We are thinking about it here in the Jamahiriyah. The liberation of the south is a top priority. We provide weapons and train people. We are following the course of the battle for liberation every day.

Our primary task is to deal blows to the Israelis. However, it will certainly be necessary to propose such an initiative when the Israelis are finally expelled from the south.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Lebanese President's Envoys

LD212041 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1935 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Mar (JANA) — This evening the leader of the revolution received Colonel Simon Qassis and brother Milad al-Farih, envoys of the Lebanese president, Amin al-Jumayyil.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Message From Sudanese Rebels

LD211846 Tripoli JANA in English 0914 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Jumada Thani, 21 March, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Sudanese revolutionary force declared its affiliation to the Nationalist Command of the revolutionary forces in the Arab homeland. This was announced in a cable the Sudanese revolutionary force sent to the leader of the revolution.

The Sudanese revolutionary force said in its cable: "Your declaration with regards to the formation of the Nationalist Command at this serious turning point in our Arab nation's history, is considered an important pointer around which all faithful revolutionaries and honorable people of our Arab nation from the ocean to the Gulf will meet to stop the continuous bleeding of the Arab nation's body".

Official Receives Moroccan Commerce Minister

LD211748 Tripoli JANA in English 1518 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Jumada Thani, 21 March, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The secretary of the General People's Committee received this morning Azzedine Guessous, the Moroccan trade, industry and tourism minister, currently visiting the Jamahiriyah. The two sides discussed existing relations between the two sisterly countries and the backing of socio-economic cooperation, in implementation of the Oujda Arab-African Union Treaty between Morocco and Libya.

Moroccan Delegation Ends Visit

LD212057 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Mar (JANA) — Azzedine Guessous, the Moroccan minister of commerce, industry and tourism, and an accompanying delegation, left Tripoli this evening at the end of a 4-day visit to the Jamahiriyah.

Guessous told a JANA correspondent that the meetings and talks he conducted during his visit were fruitful and constructive, and embodied the strong will of the Libyan Arab and the Moroccan people for comprehensive unity and economic integration.

He said that an agreement was reached to set up a holding company which will be entrusted with the task of implementing joint economic projects, marketing the products of the two countries and promoting trade exchanges. He added that we also reviewed the importance of the application of the provisions of the two customs agreements concluded between the two fraternal countries.

JANA Comments on Mubarak-Husayn Visit to Iraq

LD211536 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] JANA political editor has commented on the movements of the head of the Egyptian regime immediately following his return from Washington and his meeting, accompanied by the King of Jordan, with the head of the Iraqi regime, and on the motives and dimensions of this suspect meeting, and wrote:

Thanks to Husni Mubarak. He has saved us from answering a question which for a long time has been asked, either with good or evil intentions, a question which has on many occasions been asked by simple minded people in our Arab nation with a good intention, and which has often been pushed by the lackeys and suspicious people to the forefront of every conversation, with evil intention.

The question is: How can we interpret the political stance of Libya and Syria vis-a-vis the Iraq-Iran war? Why have they not stood by Iraq? Many people in our Arab nation believe that the Iraq-Iran war is a pan-Arab war — a war of confrontation between the Arab nation on the one hand and Iran on the other. This is what they have been led to believe. We do not deny that we have found it difficult to convince many people that the fact is otherwise.

Thanks to Husni Mubarak. With his recent visit to Saddam accompanied by King Husayn immediately following his return from America the facts emerge very clearly. Husni Mibarak's visit has clarified the nature of Saddam's Ba'thist regime. The identity of this regime is no longer unknown to anybody. It is clear that this regime is not against Zionism; in fact it is for the recognition of the emeny. It is not against the stable David. At no time has this regime honored the Arab summit resolutions to boycott the Egyptian regime for its treachery. The advocates of defeat and capitulation — Mubarak, Husayn, and Arafat — were the ones who were alarmed whenever Saddam's regime suffered a shakeup. Why all this concern for Saddam by Mubarak, Husayn, and Arafat? What can the motives be? These are questions which we do not believe need deep thinking or effort to answer. Not only that, who finances the regime of Saddam Husayn to push the Iraqi people into the fires of this destructive war?

It is Arab reaction which from the very beginning instigated this regime to begin the war and has subsequently provided it with billions [currency not specified] to continue. What can the motives be for this attitude from Arab reaction? Is it for the Arabs? We know them and our nation knows them — those who have supported that regime. They were and will continue to be the most hostile people to the Arab nation's unity. Is it for the sake of Islam that they push Iraq to continue this war? We do not beleive that the confrontation of peoples who raise the Koran as their law and follow Islam can serve Islam. Is it for the liberation of Palestine and for fighting the Zionist enemy? The Iranian revolution, since the time of its battles during the era of the shah, has been saying that its priortiy is the liberation of Palestine and Jerusalem. Why is it then? Why this stance by Arab reaction and Arab defeatists?

Mubarak's visit to Saddam saved us the effort of explaining and clarifying the nature of this war which we never imagined would take place, and God knows how concerned we are that it should not continue. This war in true fact and Mubarak's visit to Saddam is proof of what we say — it is a confrontation between a revolutionary progressive front hostile to America and Zionism and anxious to preserve Arab unity and achieve liberation, and a reactionary front allied with America and Zionism which allows them a free hand in our homeland.

Those who support Saddam aim at ending the Iranian revolution because of the dangers to America and Zionism this revolution represents. They want to destroy the heroic Iraqi Army in view of the true danger this army represents to the Zionist enemy. Hostility against the Iranian revolution cannot but serve America and Zionism, and can only prevent the spread of Islam and the victory of the revolution. How can we — the Libyan Arabs — be in a camp that serves the interests of America and Zionism? How can we be hostile to Islam and the revolution? How can we be hostile to Arab unity? How can we stand in the same front together with reaction and those who advocate capitulation to the enemy and those who call for compromising the land and the honor?

We say this and we have said and would like to reaffirm that we are with the Iranian revolution. But we will be the first to confront and fight this revolution if it is transformed into colonialism and abandons its slogans. The common ground between us and that revolution is the toppling of the Saddam regime. If that revolution tries to remain on Arab land or tries to spread sectarianism then we will be against it. We beleive in the genuineness of the Iranian revolution and we believe that it is impossible for any revolutionary movement to be transformed into colonialism. Once more, thanks to Husni Mubarak.

MAURITANIA

President Interviewed on Situation in Maghreb

LD211435 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Interview with President Maayouia Sid Ahmed Ould Taya by Kamal Jeider; date and place not given — recorded]

[Text] The weak link of the Maghreb region, Mauritania, obviously follows developments in the Western Sahara problem — a neighboring territory under dispute between Morocco and the Polisario Front — very closely. On 12 December last year, Colonel Maayouia Sid Ahmed Ould Taya took power in Nouakchott following a coup d'etat, a bloodless palace revolution destined to replace Col Ould Haydala who was deemed to be far too involved in this Western Sahara conflict. Our special correspondent to Mauritania, Kamal Jeider has just met the new Mauritanian president. He interviewed him in connection with the situation in the region. Maayouia Sid Ahmed Ould Taya first answers the question as to why the Maghreb summit plan failed.

[Begin recording] [Taya] We have learned through the press that Tunisia, the country that initiated this plan, has found it useful to postpone convening this project in the planned time. The delay

should offer a better chance to hold this summit since, just as we would like, the Maghreb countries can take the opportunity of this postponement to step up contacts with a view to achieving some progress on the fundamental issue.

[Jeider] Thus, you continue to believe it is possible for a summit between the various countries of the Maghreb to be held fairly shortly?
[Taya] Yes.

[Jeider] Can one expect you to resume your diplomatic relations with Morocco shortly, Mr President?
[Taya] As I have just told you, we expect to have balanced relations with all the countries of the region; we currently have many contacts with Morocco and we do not see anything that may inconvenience normalizing our diplomatic relations.

[Jeider] Libya was one of the first countries to recognize your political leadership emerging from the 12 December restructuring, Mr President. Is it a sign that your relations with Tripoli are warming up?
[Taya] Indeed, relations between the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Arab Libyan Jamahiriyah have witnessed renewed trust for some time now. Currently we have very serene, fraternal, friendly relations with this fraternal country. [end recording]

That was the first radio interview the Mauritanian head of state has granted to a foreign radio station by Kamal Jeider and it will be published in full in *CROSSWORDS* magazine at the beginning of next week.

MOROCCO

Libya's Al-Turayki Arrives 21 March

LD212312 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpt] 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, secretary of the People's Committee of the Libyan People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, arrived in Morocco this evening carrying a message from the leader of the Libyan revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, to His Majesty King Hassan II.

Commerce Minister Returns From Libyan Visit

LD212310 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Mr Azeddine Guessous, minister of commerce, industry, and tourism, returned to Morocco this evening after a visit to the Arab Libyan Jamahiriyah in the framework of strengthening economic cooperation between the two fraternal countries, in response to the spirit of the African Arab Union Treaty.

SUDAN

Acting OAU Secretary General Meets With 'Uthman

JN211350 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Mar 85 (SUNA) — Foreign Minister Hashim 'Uthman conferred with acting secretary general of Organization of African Unity OAU Peter Onu and acquainted him with the refugees situation in eastern and western parts of the country.

In the meeting 'Uthman explained Sudan's sustained efforts for settling and providing relief supplies for mounting number of refugees — Sudan's efforts are orginated from humane contentions and the country bears this heavy burden despite the serve problems precipitated by drought and desertification the minister told Onu.

Onu on his side expressed appreciation to the manner in which the OAU 15 member committee on refugees dealt with during its visit to Sudan last week. [sentence as received] Onu arrived here last night in a three day visit to Sudan during which he will inspect refugees camps and prepare to the forthcoming African summit.

In statement to Sudan after arrival Onu said he will inspect refugees conditions and areas hit by the drought. The two said problem will be discussed in talks with concerned officials here he added.

In his itinerary today Onu is due to visit Wad Sharifi refugee camp where 22,000 Eritrean refugees have taken refuge and hold talks with the governor of the Eastern Region.

Departs Khartoum 22 Mar

JN221111 Khartoum SUNA in English 1035 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum 30 Mar 22 (SUNA) — The Organization of African Unity (O.A.U) Acting Secretary General Dr Peter Onu and the accompanying delegation today concluded a two-day visit to Sudan. During his visit here, Onu inspected the conditions of refugees in Wad Sharifi camp and met with the officials in the central government, the Eastern Region Government, and the refugees commissionery.

Onu's visit to Sudan came within the context of an African tour aiming at exploring the conditions of the refugees and inspecting the drought and desertification affected regions, after which he will present a report on his tour to the upcoming African summit conference.

Foreign Minister Hashim 'Uthman, who saw off Mr Onu, expressed satisfaction over the visit, which he said achieved its aims. Mr Onu has come out with a real impression on the magnitude of the problem posed to Sudan in hosting such huge numbers of refugees,'Uthman said. He added that the acting OAU secretary general can play an active and effective role in procuring more relief to refugees in Sudan because of his influential position internationally.

SPLA Radio: Commander Commends Troops on Victories

EA212321 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] SPLA Rhino Battalion, under the command of the acting battalion commander and battalion political commissar, Captain Pagan Omuom, carried out four successful operations in Lakes Province last week.

In a series of ambushes and raids, the enemy suffered heavy casualties in both men and equipment. In the first ambush, which was masterminded by Second Lieutenant Marial Sanonk, resulted in the destruction of two enemy Magirus trucks and undetermined number of enemy soldiers were killed. The second and third operations against the enemy were carried out by Second Lieutenant Garang Lik and they resulted in the killing of one enemy sergeant-major and the capture of four others with their rifles from Rumbek town, when units of Rhino Battalion stormed the town. The last battle with the enemy was when the enemy attacked Rhino Battalion Headquarters on 16 March 1985. The enemy force was repulsed and suffered heavy casualties, including one lieutenant killed. In this connection, the commander in chief of the SPLA, Colonel Dr John Garang de Mabior has sent a message of congratulations to the acting commander of Rhino Battalion, Capt Pagan Omuom, officers, NCO's and men for their constant victories against Numayri's forces. He urged them to keep up the good work in order to reduce and weaken the enemy into inevitable defeat.

SPLA Radio Comments on Dismissal of Muslim Brothers

EA220032 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Commentary by Comrade Omilok Odur: "What Friendship Means to Numayri"]

[Text] Dr Hasan 'Abdallah Turabi, the leader of the Muslim brothers, and his cronies who have found their way in the May system, are now in detention after having fallen out of love with the leader of the Sudanese regime, Ja'far Numayri. We in the SPLA-SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Army-Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] and the rest of the Sudanese, including good Muslims, have never believed that the brand of Islam preached and practiced by Dr Turabi and cohorts is suitable for a just, humane, and tolerant system of government because of its insistence that those outside its fold must accept and adjust to the dictates of that group.

Whether in or outside government, Muslim brothers and sisters have not been able to demonstrate that they believe and respect persuasion as a way of selling their ideology. All this is common place. However, Numayri's denunciation of Muslim brothers 11 days ago for their destructive intentions and actions merely deceived some people that perhaps there might be something new in the accusations.

All the evils attributed to the brotherhood have always been associated with the group just like fire and smoke. Even the fact that the purge of the Muslim fanatics was done at the bidding of some foreign governments with motives not related to the wishes of the Sudanese is not new. The May regime is basically a puppet government which receives orders from across the national borders. What may be new in this irony in the dismissal of the Muslim brothers by Numayri from his system is the jubilation with which the news was received especially by the tribal administrations in Malakal, Juba, and Wau.

The members and parasitic supporters of this hand-picked sham government by celebrating the exit of Turabi and his group are showing their ignorance of the fact that Numayri has always been ruling by expediency, and because of that he is ready to humiliate his friends who harm fellow citizens in his name and for his system if that could prolong his cling to power. He has done this before to many who lived under the illusion that they would be in the system forever and that without them there would be no May regime.

These elements were more in evidence in the southern part of the country where, in the name of their friendship and personal loyalty to Numayri, they stifled all forms of dissent, even well-intentioned criticism. If there is no reason to believe that Numayri has changed from an egoistic politician to the gentleman who protects those who do dirty jobs on his behalf, one can say that yesterday it was the turn of Al-Turabi and Al-Mukashfi to dig their grave because they have served their usefulness. Tomorrow it may be [words indistinct] to any of the hand-picked heads of the southern Bantustan if removing such puppets and their mini-government would satisfy certain whims of the Sudanese dictator.

TUNISIA

Algerian Minister Endorses Treaty of Accord

LD211401 Algiers APS in English 1025 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Tunis, 21-3-85 (APS) — "We are extremely attached to the treaty of fraternity and accord, and are deeply convinced that it constitutes the ideal way for the concretization of the Arab global unity", Mohamed Hadj Yala, Politburo member, minister of interior and local collectivities declared yesterday in Tunis on the occasion of the 29th anniversary of the Tunisian national independence. "This treaty, which reinforced fraternity and accord between peoples of the Arab Maghreb and consolidated historical ties linking them, is the expression of the will of these peoples and its aspirations to the edification of a prosperous future which meet their needs and be in harmony with their common destiny", Yala added. The meeting, chaired by Mohamed Mzali, secretary general of the P.S.D. (the Destourian Socialist Party), prime minister and home minister, and which coincides with the celebration of the second anniversary of the signature of the fraternity and the concord treaty, was held in the presence of the P.S.D. Politburo members and Tunisian Government ones as well as members of the Algerian delegation.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Affirms Support for Oppressed in S. Africa

EA220022 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam affirmed that revolutionary Ethiopia will continue to give material and moral support to the oppressed and exploited people of South Africa and to the national liberation movement.

Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the WPE [Workers Party of Ethiopia] Central Committee, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the revolutionary Armed Forces, stated this in a message he sent to the UN special committee for the eradication of racism, on the occasion of the International Day for the Eradication of Racism being observed today. In the message he sent on behalf of the WPE, government, people, and on his own behalf, Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam reaffirmed revolutionary Ethiopia's firm support for and solidarity with the struggle to completely eradicate racism in the African Continent and the world.

Comrade Mengistu said that what makes this year's International Day for the Eradication of Racism different is the rising support given to the broad masses of South Africa in their struggle. He recalled that the sufferings and atrocities being perpetuated in South Africa currently are not on a lesser scale than the massacre carried out in Sharpeville 25 years ago, and pointed out that the special committee for the eradication of apartheid should focus on issues relevant to this situation at its meeting.

Our comrade revolutionary leader stated that the illegal acts carried out by the racist South Africa regime are at an apathetic [as heard] stage, and said that the current imprisonment, transportation, beating, and killing of blacks in South Africa's big and small cities is getting worse daily.

Comrade Mengistu stated that on this day we are reminded of the young men and women who lost their lives demonstrating against the racist apartheid regime and those who struggled against racist administration and laws. He pointed out that in addition to condemning the racist regime, it is necessary to strengthen solidarity to attain freedom for the people.

Concluding his speech, Comrade Mengistu expressed admiration for the efforts being made by the UN special committee for the eradication of apartheid for the freedom of the people of South Africa, and affirmed that revolutionary Ethiopia will continue to give its support until the people of South Africa attain freedom, justice, and equality.

SOMALIA

Information Ministry on Ethiopian Refugees

EA212301 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] A spokesman for the Ministry of Information and National Guidance today denied allegations that there are people who have fled from the Somali Democratic Republic living outside Somalia's borders. The spokesman added that the allegations, eminating from Abyssinia and elements it uses, are baseless and unfounded and are aimed merely at confusing world public opinion and at allowing Abyssinia to cover up the fact that hundreds of thousands of refugees from Ethiopia flee the oppression perpetrated on them daily and seek asylum in neighboring countries such as the Somali Democratic Republic, Sudan, and elsewhere.

The Information Ministry spokesman said that during the past few months, thousands of refugees have entered the Somali Democratic Republic, fleeing killings, lootings, oppression, and the drought in Ethiopia. They are still pouring into the country and the Somali Government has appealed to the world community to come to their aid.

CAMEROON

President Biya Opens CNU Fourth Congress

AB211739 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Speech by President Paul Biya at the opening of the fourth ordinary congress of the Cameroon National Union Party in Bamenda on 21 March — recorded in English]

[Excerpts] Ladies and gentlemen, dear Comrades: Here I am once more in Bamenda, and how good it is to be home again. In fact, as you know, the head of state is at home everywhere in Cameroon. For me, outside Yaounde, Bamenda has become a special home. As head of state, therefore, and as president of the Cameroon National Union [CNU] Party, I welcome all of you to Bamenda. But in my new capacity as [words indistinct] of the northwest, I take great pleasure and pride in welcoming you all to this province. To all the militants of our great national party, from the far north to the south, and from the east to the southwest, I say welcome to Bamenda, welcome to the congress.

Dear Comrades, your presence today in Bamenda, your massive and very warm presence, confirms your strong belief in the important role of the party in nation-building. For no great nation, no powerful and prosperous state, was ever built without a strong party like the CNU, without dedicated militants like you, without a united people like Cameroons. To all the representatives of friendly countries and to the delegations of brother political parties here present, I say welcome to this congress. I am happy and proud to note this. Your presence is a testimony that we share common convictions and common ideals about the future of Africa, about the future of mankind; I mean world peace, liberty, justice, and cooperation.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear Comrades, the fourth congress of the CNU is of prime significance to Cameroon for at least two reasons. First, I have just mentioned the fact that it is the first congress of the new deal era, that is to say the first congress since I took office as head of state, and since I became national president of the party. It is therefore holding at a decisive moment in the history of our country. [sentence as heard]

During our deliberations we will have an opportunity to mention the progress achieved as a nation since the congress of Bafoussam. But we will also be able to assess the impact of the new type of society we are attempting to build, guided by the principles of the new deal, some of which are rigor and moralization, liberalization, democratization, and national integration. Secondly, this congress is holding only weeks after the 1985 agropastoral show. [sentence as heard]

This congress is therefore a challenge to all of us, a challenge to continue assuming the ideals of the CNU; a challenge to decide now what future we want for our children, for our country; a challenge to make Cameroon a great land in Africa and in the world; a challenge to translate the new deal into a concrete and lasting reality. All this is within our reach. We have both the means and the determination to make it happen. Together we have laid the foundation, together we have made a good beginning, and together we can and must succeed in order to make Cameroon a more united, strong, prosperous, and just nation.

Long live the CNU, long live Cameroon!

I declare open the fourth congress of the CNU.

Elections Conducted

AB212056 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The new deal congress was declared open today in Bamenda by the head of state in the presence of more than 500 delegates and observers. The head of state and national chairman of the party received a rousing welcome by the population. Journalists came from everywhere and the event was broadcast live by national television.

The members of the Bureau of the Congress were unanimously elected this morning during the opening ceremony: Salomon Tanfeng Mouna, chairman; Joseph Charles Doumba, rapporteur; Benjamin Itoe, rapporteur; Sadou Ayatou and Elizabeth Tankeu, assistants.

CHAD

Chadian Democratic Front Established in Paris

AB211822 Paris AFP in French 1704 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Paris, 21 Mar (AFP) — A "Chadian Democratic Front" (FDT), comprising the Permanent Committee, the Group of Independent Democrats, the Group of Chadian Patriots and Democrats, and the Democratic Peace Union, has just been formed in Paris under the chairmanship of General Negue Djogo.

In a joint communique issued in Paris on Thursday, and signed by Colonel Djime Mamary, these four Chadian groups, which do not claim allegiance to either Hissein Habre or Goukouni Oueddei, consider that the "national reconciliation procedure is deadlocked today because of the complicity and intransigence of the Ndjamena regime and the Transitional National Union Government" (GUNT, based in Bardai, in the extreme north of Chad). According to the communique, the procedure is also deadlocked because of foreign interference.

The FDT, the communique added, "adopts the people's struggle being carried out by the antigovernment commandos (Codos) in the South, and by the fighters in the center and center-east of the country, and has set up a provisional executive bureau headed by Gen Negue Djogo," former GUNT chief of defense staff.

The FDT called on states friendly to Chad to put pressure on "the Ndjamena and Bardai regimes in order to get them to embark on the path of a negotiated solution to the Chadian crisis."

The agreement creating the FDT was signed by Ngarnayal Mbailemdana for the Permanent Committee, Michel Ngangbet for the Group of Independent Democrats, Jean Bawoyeu Alingue for the Group of Chadian Patriots and Democrats, and Djoriot Mahamat Ouya for the Democratic Peace Union.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Information Minister Receives DPRK Envoy, Delegation

AB211834 Malabo Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Leandro Ngomio Nze, minister delegate to the Presidency in charge of information, tourism, and arts, this morning received the DPRK ambassador accredited to our country along with the head of Korean delegation currently visiting our country. The Korean ambassador came to pay a courtesy call on the minister and deliver an invitation for two persons to attend the forthcoming seminar of the nonaligned countries to be held in Pyongyang.

At the audience, the two officials also discussed the program of the Korean arts exhibition that will open at 1400 on 21 March in the exhibition hall of the Ministry of Information, Tourism, Arts, and Culture. Apart from the discussions, Minister Ngomio Nze, along with the Korean ambassador and techinicians of the ministry, (?discussed) the mounting of the exhibition. Also present at the audience were Alberto Nguema Ndo, the delegate for information, tourism, arts, and culture in Bioko Norte, and Moalo Okamba, (?an official of the department of culture).

GABON

Burkinabe Economic Minister Received by Bongo

AB211856 Libreville Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Captain Henri Zongo, the Burkinabe minister of economic promotion, was received in audience yesterday morning at the Renovation Palace by His Excellency El-Hadj Omar Bongo, the head of state. At the end of the audience, the Burkina Faso minister of economic promotion stated that the talks concerned a certain number of problems existing within the framework of cooperation between Gabon and his country and problems concerning the subregion and Africa in general.

Captain Henri Zongo, who was escorted to the Renovation Palace by Mr Pascal Nze, the minister of planning and territorial development, later stated that for 2 years now an economic bridge has been built between Gabon and Burkina Faso and that the questions discussed fell within the framework of exchanges which the two countries are searching to establish by every means. Minister Zongo concluded his comments by saying that relations between his country and Gabon are excellent and that they must be further developed. At the end of the audience, he answered questions from the presidential press staff:

[Begin recording] [Zongo] I would first like to thank President Omar Bongo for granting us this audience. You know that each time Mr Bongo received us in his office, he considered us first of all as his Burkinabe friends within the framework of the fraternity existing between the two countries and also within the framework of the friendship that exists between our two heads of state. We came to discuss a number of problems with President Bongo within the framework of cooperation between the two countries, the subregion and Africa in general.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Minister, can you give us an outline of the problems you discussed with President Bongo?

[Zongo] The subject of our talks cannot be discussed publicly; however, I can tell you that they fall within the framework of bilateral cooperation. You know that for almost 2 years now we have been trying to build an economic bridge between Gabon and Burkina Faso within the framework of our exchanges and it is precisely our duty to utilize all means to activate them [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Could you brief us on the relations of cooperation existing between Gabon and Burkina Faso?

[Zongo] I can tell you that cooperation between Gabon and Burkina Faso is very good and the Gabonese authorities can also bear witness to this. Our relations are excellent. Concerning the economic field, well, we (?hope to have more tourist) exchanges. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Opposition Accuse Government of Attempted Murder

AB211645 Paris AFP in French 1845 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Paris, 20 Mar (AFP) — The National Recovery Movement (Morena — outlawed Gabonese opposition movement) in Paris on Wednesday accused the Libreville authorities of having "ordered the attempt" on the life of one of its members in Meaux (Paris region) on Monday night.

An explosion damaged the landing in front of the door to the apartment occupied by Simon Evona, political adviser in charge of missions to Morena's President Paul Mba-Abassole, police sources stated on Monday.

After confirming that "similar attempts" were carried out on 11 and 12 December against members of Morena in Paris and Montreuil, the "crisis unit of the Gabonese government-in-exile," which was created in Paris in February, expressed its determination to "continue its nonviolent struggle" until the "departure of the regime" of President Omar Bongo. Morena, the communique adds, invites the French Government to take the appropriate measures to "put an end to this escalation of attempts and to ensure the security of the members" of Morena in France.

GHANA

Sankara Arrives To View Joint Military Exercise

AB211859 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] The revolutionary leader of Burkina, Captain Thomas Sankara, arrived in Accra this evening for a short visit. He was met at the airport by the Chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, the special adviser to the PNDC, Captain Kojo Tsikata, the force commander, Major General Arnold Quainoo, and the inspector general of police, Mr S.S. Omane. Capt Sankara told newsmen on arrival that he is in the country to see how his soldiers, who are currently engaged in the military exercise with their Ghanaian counterparts, are faring. He said he will be going to Dwarf Island to see the troops in action.

GUINEA

Foreign Minister Leads Delegation to PRC

For Beijing reportage on the visit to the PRC by a delegation led by Facine Toure, minister of state for foreign affairs and international cooperation, including their banquet with PRC Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian, see the Middle East & Africa section of the 22 March China *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

IVORY COAST

Verdict Rendered in BNDA-Cogexim Case

AB190900 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 19 Mar 85 p 2

[Marcellin Abougnan article: "A Disturbing Verdict"]

[Text] The Abidjan magistrate court yesterday rendered its verdict in the case between the National Agricultural Development Bank, BNDA, and the General Export-Import Co., Cogexim: Cogexim must pay 7 billion francs to the BNDA; a certified accountant, Francis Desclers, has been appointed to determine — after expert appraisal — the rest of the amount the BNDA is claiming.

This simplistic view of the verdict, however, calls for common sense: When Victor Amagou, Cogexim's administrator, was leaving on 31 May 1983, an internal audit carried out by Auxilia [accounting firm] recognized that Cogexim actually had in stock 15 billion francs worth of produce. During the same period, a report issued by Pannel, Kerr, Forster & Co., after an expert appraisal, concluded that there was a real capital flow between the BNDA and Cogexim. The report also specified that traces of 16.651 billion francs had been found in Cogexim books. All that remained to be done was to find the 2 billion and some millions of francs that remained to make up the 19 billion francs lent by the BNDA and whose interest and charges already amounted to 10 billion francs. Therefore, some money passed through the accounts of that company.

One does not therefore understand why the court, contrary to common sense, is demanding from Cogexim the payment of only 7 billion francs despite Article 12 of the BNDA-Cogexim agreement, which stipulates that the money owed the BNDA can be sufficiently established only from the figures in the bank's books. Reports have followed reports on this affair, yet one has now come to a verdict that is disturbing, to say the least. This is a delaying tactic that has kept the Ivorian public — who are eager to know the outcome of this affair — in suspense. This tactic, unfortunately, is going to continue with the appointment of a certified accountant.

Meanwhile, an appeal has been made and there is no doubt that in the days ahead, more light will be shed on this affair which has lasted too long.

Besides, the moralization of our country's political life depends on the purging of all the present mechanisms of the socioeconomic apparatus. And, during their recent seminar in Yamoussoukro from 7 to 9 March, the party's general secretaries called the tune: "Ivory Coast," they said, "does not need financial scandals."

The BNDA-Cogexim affair constitutes an open dossier, the conclusion of which the Ivorian public is eager to see.

PDCI Political Bureau Statement

AB202140 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Statement issued by Political Bureau of Democratic Party of Ivory Coast, PDCI, following its meeting of 20 March on magistrate court ruling regarding National Agricultural Development Bank, BNDA-General Import-Export Co., Cogexim, dispute — read by Jean Konan Banny, member of the party's Executive Committee and minister of defense]

[Excerpts] Ivory Coast does not need financial scandals. It was in these words that the general secretaries of the various sections of the party expressed their indignation during their recent meeting in Yamoussoukro. The leadership of the party had merely to meditate on this call which came from the party's base. The Cogexim-BNDA affair, the verdict of which is now known to all and which irritated everyone in Ivory Coast, has given the people an opportunity to express their opinion. In fact, since the case began, the political leaders, mindful of the separation of powers in this country of freedom and justice, had distanced themselves from the matter, seeing it as a private affair. This attitude would have been maintained had the result of the case been different and had it not been for the irritation that this verdict provoked among our party militants. The leniency of this verdict cannot be overemphasized.

Moreover, a certain international press, reporting the matter in a biased manner, has tried to cause trouble and confusion in the minds of many of our compatriots.

This is why the Political Bureau, at a meeting on Tuesday, 19 March 1985, at the presidential palace, decided to shed full light on this matter and to demand the total and true justice that the people are demanding and in the manner the national press has advocated since the announcement of the verdict.

The Political Bureau therefore calls on the government to take all the necessary measures to ensure the quick settlement of this case by looking for all the authors of all the misdeeds that have been committed and by punishing them. The Political Bureau asks in particular for the lifting of the parliamentary immunity for the deputy and managing director of Cogexim in order to investigate the case thoroughly and to ensure the proper dispensation of justice.

Agriculture Minister on Geneva Cocoa Price Talks

AB211718 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 21 Mar 85 pp 6-7

[Press conference by Agriculture Minister Denis Bra-Kanon in Abidjan on 20 March following his return from Geneva — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] The Geneva negotiations did not make it possible to reach a compromise in order to conclude a new international cocoa agreement. Do you think future negotiations will enable the achievement of a compromise between the producing and the consuming countries?

[Bra-Kanon] First of all, I must say that the Geneva meeting was not a failure because some real progress was achieved. You remember, no doubt, that the head of state's struggle in this respect aimed at a certain number of points which have now been approved by the consumers including:

The abandonment by the consumers of the system of semi-automatic adjustment which was designed to encourage speculation.

The second thing is that our partners — in conformity with the strategy advocated in 1980 by President Houphouet-Boigny when he received his colleagues in Yamoussoukro during the conference on cocoa — have decided to adopt the system of withdrawals which would become a sort of second defense line after the regulating stock. But what is better is that the international community also agreed to finance stocking and the rotation of stocks when the system of withdrawals becomes effective.

The president's third suggestion, which was also accepted, is the system of annual revision of prices. This system was accepted in principle. One can therefore say that we are satisfied to a certain extent. However, we were unable to definitively agree on the price levels.

We, the producing countries, have asked that a price structure be devised with a minimum price below which one cannot descend — because it corresponds with our farmers' gross selling price — and a maximum price that should not be exceeded because it corresponds with the consumers' purchasing power.

We must say that the international cocoa agreement is being eagerly awaited by the international community, the governments, and the United Nations. Presently, no other agreement exists apart from the agreements on coffee and natural rubber. The international community needs a cocoa agreement, but it does not want to pay the appropriate price. As we know — and Ivory Coast being a country with dignity — we will never agree to support (?half measures) — political decisions which are not based on respect for others; that is, on an adequate remuneration of our labor.

Delegation Leaves for Cameroonian Party Congress

AB211730 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpt] We have just received a communique from the [Democratic Party of the Ivory Coast-African Democratic Rally] Executive Committee which reads:

Upon invitation of the Cameroon National Union Party, a delegation of the Democratic Party of the Ivory Coast-African Democratic Rally [PDCI-RDA] led by Laurent Dona Fologo, member of the Executive Committee of the Political Bureau, minister of youth and sports, left Abidjan yesterday for Yaounde, the Cameroonian capital. The party delegation will convey the fraternal greetings and a message of friendship and militant solidarity of the PDCI-RDA to the sister party in Cameroon, which is holding its fourth ordinary congress at Bamenda in the western part of the country.

LIBERIA

UP Objectors To Continue With Case Against Party

AB211631 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0655 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] The chief counsel in the case involving the two objections filed by Al (Booleh) and Denis (Sluwa) against the probation of the proposed Unity Party [UP] has said that the objectors will not withdraw their appeal from the Supreme Court. Counselor Rogers (Still) was responding to a reporter's question yesterday on whether he intends to withdraw the case from the Supreme Court. This comes in the wake of head of state Doe's appeal to the citizens of lower Grand Gedeh County to withdraw their objection against the probation of the Liberia Action Party, LAP.

According to LINA [Liberian News Agency], counselor (Still) said they have already begun processing (?bonds) in the two objections filed by Mr Al (Booleh) and Denis (Sluwa). The counselor pointed out that they have to complete the appeal within statutory time. He explained that it has to be done within 60 days from the date the people's monthly and probate court gave its decision.

It can be recalled that Al (Booleh) and Denis (Sluwa) had contended at the probate court that the Unity Party's documents should not be probated because they say the proposed party has created an extra constituency in Bomi County. Mr (Sluwa) had argued that the Unity Party's list from Loffa County was fraudulently obtained. Counselor (Still) said he intends to pursue the case because he feels that the ruling of the probate court is not in conformity with law and fact.

NIGERIA

Oil Minister Denies Violation of OPEC Quota

AB221235 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Nigeria has denied reports that she is not abiding by the production quota set by OPEC. Speaking on his return from an OPEC meeting in Geneva yesterday, the petroleum minister. Professor Tam David-West said Nigeria is one of the organization's most disciplined members. He added that the country was one of the first to pay a $100,000 levy on members for the monitoring of production and pricing. Oil industry sources in Lagos agreed that Nigeria was within her OPEC quota with about 1.4 million barrels a day.

Idiagbon Says Efforts Against 'Saboteurs' To Continue

AB211628 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] The Federal Government has declared that it will not relent in its efforts to get rid of all economic saboteurs in the country. The policy posture was reaffirmed by the chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Major General Tunde Idiagbon, in an address today at Owerri, Imo State, at a ceremony marking the first anniversary of the War Against Indiscipline, WAI. He condemned as most unfortunate the impression that one could only make a living by commiting acts of corruption and economic sabotage. Gen Idiagbon warned all those still engaged in unpatriotic activities to desist of this evil practice. The chief of staff said that smuggling in particular has continued to constitute a terrible social menace which has been corroding and demolishing the economic fabric. Maj Gen Idiagbon added that the law enforcement agencies will redouble their efforts to stamp out smuggling. He declared that all convicted smugglers will be shown no mercy because they deserve none. They will be visited by the full (?arm) of the law. The chief of staff regretted that while many Nigerians had (?embraced) the lessons of WAI and had learned to put the nation first, others were still wallowing in their narrow self-interests. As he put it, no single professional group should allow an exaggerated opinion of its self-importance to becloud its sense of judgment and moderation. He emphasized the need for all professions to see their roles as equally important in the collective and patriotic search for national advancement, peace, and prosperity. He stressed the need to patronize locally made goods and assured that those who still engage in smuggling, drugs and currency trafficking will be visited by all the [word indistinct] of the law.

Also speaking on the occasion, the minister of information, social development, youths, sports, and culture, Group Captain Emeka Omeroah, described WAI as a philosophy seeking to reawaken Nigerians. This policy has made [words indistinct] and a great people.

Supreme Military Council Issues 8 Decrees

AB212006 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] The Supreme Military Council has promulgated eight new decrees. One of them makes provisions for the enforcement of confirmed judgments of the various tribunals, especially in the recovery of funds and forfeited assets. Another one establishes a task force for the purpose of clearing prohibited, overtime, and abandoned goods from specified transit sheds and government warehouses located in the country's sea ports, international airports, and customs border stations. There is also a decree stipulating the structures, composition, and functions of the management boards of all teaching hospitals in the country as well as the discipline of students and staff of the medical institutions. The decrees are enumerated in a communique issued at the end of the first meeting of the Supreme Military Council this year held in Lagos this week.

Gambari Marks Anniversary of Sharpeville 'Massacre'

AB212148 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Nigeria has sent out a fresh appeal to member-states of the Organization of African Unity, OAU, to enhance the capacity for the total liberation of the continent from colonialism and racism. The minister of external affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari, made the call today in a broadcast to mark the 25th anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre in South Africa. Dr Gambari gave an assurance that Nigeria will continue to be actively involved in the struggle to wipe out apartheid. He requested the international community to intensify efforts during the period of the second decade for the total eradication of apartheid so as to ensure the establishment of a democratic society in that (?enclave).

The minister remarked that apartheid has continued to strive because certain Western states, who should be in the vanguard of the struggle to eliminate it, had chosen to reinforce the apartheid machinery through their political, economic, and military collaboration.

Briefs

New Envoy to Vatican — The Nigerian ambassador to the Holy See, Edwin Morvan Ihama, has presented his credentials to Pope John Paul II at the Vatican City. [Excerpt] [*Lagos THE GUARDIAN in English 9 Mar 85 p 3 AB*]

Buhari Receives Outgoing Envoys — The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, has commended Norway for her courage in identifying herself with the aspiration of Africans,

especially as it concerns apartheid. Gen Buhari made the commendation yesterday when the outgoing Norwegian ambassador in Nigeria, Mr Rolf Bergendahl, paid him a farewell visit at Dodan Barracks. He said that Norway's support for liberation movements in southern Africa and her stand on North-South dialogue were equally praiseworthy. Three other outgoing ambassadors also paid similar calls on the head of state. They are those of Indonesia, Switzerland, and Libya. [Text] [*Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 22 Mar 85 AB*]

SIERRA LEONE

Riots Force President To Delay Trip to PRC

AB220750 Paris AFP in English 0741 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Freetown, March 22 (AFP) — Riots in Sierra Leone's mining region of Kono, apparently connected with a drive against foreigners, and strike action by teachers, have forced President Siaka Stevens to delay his departure for China, scheduled for today, until Saturday.

Police reports reaching here yesterday from Kono, 297 miles from the capital, said a strike organised by the motor drivers union last Monday "got out of hand, leading to the eruption of violence." A number of people were said to have been seriously injured, and properites destroyed. The mining area is a restricted zone. Citizens as well as foreigners have to get residence permits from the Interior Ministry.

An "anti-stranger drive" has reportedly been going on at Kono since last week. President Stevens was reported yesterday as telling a rural convention of his party — one of a series leading up to presidential elections in June — that the government would shortly start expelling illegal aliens from Freetown.

Hundreds of teachers in the western area meanwhile stopped work to back demands for "full payment of salaries, travelling allowances, bonuses and other arrears." They presented their grievances to President Stevens at State House after a general meeting Wednesday night, and warned against any teacher being "molested, arrested and/or detained during peaceful negotiation for our rights."

The 17-member delegation accompanying Mr Stevens for a six-day state visit to China was to leave last night for London, where the president is expected to join them to fly to China on Sunday.

TOGO

Air Afrique, OCAM Heads of States Summits To Open

AB211629 Lome Domestic Service in French 0615 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The summit conference of heads of state of Air Afrique member countries, which opens tomorrow, will be attended by Ivory Coast, Benin, Niger, Congo, Senegal, CAR, Chad, Burkina, Mauritania, and Togo.

In addition to this conference, the members of the African and Mauritian Common Organization, OCAM, will hold a summit in Lome. In this connection, our capital is also expecting the Rwandan head of state.

Meanwhile, the Mauritanian minister of interior, Djibril Ould Abdallah, is in Lome within the framework of the meeting of the ministerial committee of Air Afrique member countries. He went to Lome II to convey to President Eyadema a message from the Mauritanian president, who will not attend the conference of heads of state of Air Afrique summit conference, due on 22 and 23 March in Lome.

Eyadema Meets OCAM Head

AB211558 Paris AFP in French 1100 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Lome, 21 Mar (AFP) — Togolese President General Gnassingbe Eyadema held talks on Wednesday with Amri Sued, secretary general of the African and Mauritian Common Organization (OCAM), whose heads of state are to meet this weekend in Lome.

At the end of this audience, Mr Sued told newsmen that he and the head of state examined issues connected with the organization and its achievements, on the eve of the conference of heads of state. The last summit in Yamoussoukro in 1982, he added, had set up a restructuring technical committee charged with presenting to the heads of state proposals to revive the organization with new structures and new aims. The OCAM heads of state are expected to deliberate on the proposals of this committee.

Eyadema Holds Private Talks With Houphouet-Boigny

AB212044 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] This afternoon at 1700 the founding chairman of the Rally of the Togolese People went to the VIP guest palace to visit his brother and friend, President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, who, it will be recalled, arrived in our capital yesterday. The two heads of state held a private meeting which lasted an hour.

ANGOLA

MPLA-UNITA Contacts Reportedly Take Place

DW201223 [Editorial Report] Hamburg ARD Television Network in German at 2130 GMT 19 March 1985 in its "Tagesthemn" program carries a Heinrich Buettgen report from Angola on the celebrations of the UNITA anniversary and the situation in the country. The reporter says that "so far Angola's President dos Snatos, Fidel Castro of Cuba, and the government groups in Luanda strictly refused to conduct negotiations with the UNITA. But parts of the weakened Angolan Government party, MPLA, have succumbed to apathy. According to reports from Luanda, they already have established contact with UNITA and its president, Jonas Savimbi, through Portuguese go-betweens."

Interior Minister on Talks With South Africa

PM211557 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 19 Mar 85 p 10

[Interview with Interior Minister Alexandre Rodrigues by Pietro Petrucci in Maputo; date not given]

[Text] Angolan Interior Minister Alexandre Rodrigues, better known by his partisan name of "Kito," has become one of the key men of the Luanda regime since — just over a year ago — he was given the task of heading the negotiations with South Africa under U.S. auspices. We asked him to take stock of these negotiations.

[Petrucci] Is it true that they are at a standstill?

[Rodrigues] Yes, they are at a standstill, though the meditors are seeking a way out. The standstill is the fault of the South Africans who, instead of completing the first phase envisaged in the Lusaka accords, are trying to impose a new mechanism that was not discussed.

[Petrucci] Could you be more specific?

[Rodrigues] In Lusaka, we set up a joint committee responsible for monitoring the South African withdrawal and our restrictions of South-West African People's Organization activities. It was all due to be completed within 4 months to open the way to implementation of Resolution No 435 on Namibian independence. First the South Africans began to procrastinate, then they produced a novelty: We could not proceed to the second phase unless the joint committee was made permanent and its powers edtended.

[Petrucci] Why did you refuse?

[Rodrigues] First, because it was not in the accords and, second, because it was an attempt at an underhand "linkage" — our own involvement in strangling SWAPO, and the implementation of Resolution No 435. We said "No," but to avoid breaking off the dialogue we kept the joint committee, which still survives.

[Petrucci] Do you believe it possible that the South African Government wants peace but cannot impose it on the country?

[Rodrigues] I do not believe that.

[Petrucci] Are you satisfied with the U.S. role?

[Rodrigues] Partly. If they were to use all their weight, we would already be out of trouble.

[Petrucci] What could Washington do apart from exerting pressure on Botha?

[Rodrigues] Establish normal diplomatic relations with Angola.

[Petrucci] What is there to prompt the United States to become involved in this mediation?

[Rodrigues] I am tempted to reply: a certain sense of history. We would say that the United States and South Africa have the same geopolitical interests in our region and are working together. There is a fear that is beginning to trouble me, however.

[Petrucci] What is it?

[Rodrigues] That the United States and South Africa have an undisclosed objective which they are trying to pursue throughout southern Africa through this system of unending negotiations — to challenge our governments' legitimacy and to recycle the old colonials and new puppets in Angola and Mozambique.

'Several' Injured in Huambo Bomb Explosion

MB211946 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Several people were injured in the city of Huambo last Saturday when an explosive device detonated near the Almirante Hotel building, partially destroying it and damaging some buildings nearby, as well as destroying a bus. An ANGOP dispatch issued today in Luanda announced that one child is in serious condition with burns over about 80 percent of his body as a result of the explosion. A team of doctors which is treating the child said that the chances of his survival are minimal.

This criminal attempt, which has not caused any deaths, was committed by a group of five criminals who were immediately arrested after the prompt action of the defense and security forces of the city of Huambo. The criminal said, at the time of their arrest, that they tried to create a panic among the hotel residents and passersby so that they could plunder the belongings of people at the hotel.

KUP Cites UNITA Sources on Shelling of Luena

MB220636 (Clandestine) KUP in Portuguese to Central and Southern Africa 0600 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Free Land of Angola, 22 Mar (KUP) — According to UNITA military sources, the defense lines of Luena, formerly Luso, are being destroyed by UNITA forces. Heavy weapons shells of the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola are hitting the center of the town, causing heavy casualties among the MPLA forces.

Civilians are abandoning the town en masse in order to escape the fighting.

BOTSWANA

Minister Cites Efforts To Attract Oil Companies

MB220629 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 0510 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] The minister of mineral resources and water affairs, Mr Archibald Mogwe, told parliament yesterday that the government is negotiating with oil companies in an effort to attact them to Botswana. Mr Mogwe who was replying to the debate on his ministry's estimate, said an agreement was almost reached with one such company a few years ago, but the agreement fell through when the recession set in. He said that the Department of Geological Survey was undertaking a pilot project on petroleum exploration which is an extremely expensive undertaking that requires (?preparedness) and involves risk.

During the debate, some members of parliament expressed the fear that Botswana was faced by some energy crisis in the form of the depletion of firewood and a rise in petroleum prices. Addressing himself to this fear, Mr Mogwe disclosed that his ministry was to formulate an energy master plan during the next 2 years. He said the German Government would provide technical assistance for this exercise. Mr Mogwe disclosed to the house that his ministry had commissioned a study to quantify the extent of fuelwood and the resources which exist. He said the World Bank had expressed interest in this and indicated a willingness to assist government implement the recommendations.

COMOROS

Bamana Elected Head of Mayotte Council

AB212031 Paris AFP in French 1339 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Mayotte, 21 Mar (AFP) — Younoussa Bamana (DVG) [expansion unknown], was unanimously elected yesterday to the head of Mayotte's 17-member General Council. The cantonal elections have shown the RPR [Mahorais Republican Rally] (Neo-Gaullist) to be in the lead but the MPM (Mahorais People's Movement — Departmentalists) kept the majority in the General Council.

The assembly is composed of 10 MPM, 6 RPR, and one independent member. Mr Bamana, who is a member of the MPM, held this post since the council was set up in 1977. In his inaugural speech, Mr Bamana stressed that more than 96 percent of the ballots during the cantonal elections went to candidates claiming to belong, one way of another, to the Mayotte parties struggling for departmentalization.

MOZAMBIQUE

Maputo Criticizes RSA on Nkomati Implementation

MB211430 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] The South African foreign minister, Roelof Botha, yesterday heard some harsh words from President Samora Machel concerning South Africa's role in the continuing terrorist war in Mozambique. Peace had not been reached in Mozambique, said the president, because the South African authorities did not take energetic measures to stamp out the activity in South African territory of the armed bandits operating against Mozambique.

This verdict comes a little over a year since the Nkomati Accord of nonaggression and good neighborliness was signed by President Samora Machel and Mr P.W. Botha, who was then South Africa's prime minister. Over that year, Mozambique has made no demands on South Africa which go beyond the letter and spirit of the Nkomati Accord. All Mozambique has asked is that the South African Government do what it said it would do under the terms of the accord.

The South African authorities have failed to take the measures necessary to put an end to the use of their territory by the armed bandits. If this had been happening for a few days, or even weeks after the accord, it might have been understandable. But did it really have to take a full year for the South African authorities to take action against certain unidentified individuals operating against Mozambique? And why is it that this action against these bandits is revealed to the world on the anniversary of Nkomati, the day on which Pretoria's failure to implement the accord was bound to be the center of the world's attention?

Veloso Visits Brazil, Meets Acting President

For Maputo reportage on the visit to Brazil by Jacinto Veloso, minister in the Presidency for economic affairs, including his meeting with Brazilian acting President Jose Sarney, see the Brazil section of the 19 March Latin America *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Envoy Seeks 'Rapid Fall' of Apartheid Regime

MB211155 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Mozambican Ambassador Valeriano Ferrao has appealed to the international community to conduct a more determined action for a rapid fall of the apartheid regime. Valeriano Ferrao was speaking in Canada yesterday when he presented his credentials to the Canadian governor general, accrediting him as ambassador to that country.

The Mozambican diplomat stressed Canada's cooperation in the project for the rehabilitation of the Nacala railroad through the Southern African Development Coordination Conference and the emergency food aid given by the government of that country to Mozambique.

The Canadian governor general replied by stating that his country stands for the total observance of the human rights in the region so that all peoples may be treated equally. He also pointed out Canada's participation in the SADCC and the role played by the Canadian nongovernmental organizations and guest workers in Mozambique.

Valeriano Ferrao is also Mozambican ambassador to the United States.

NAMIBIA

MPC Delegates Discuss Interim Government

MB211712 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 21 Mar 85

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] In Windhoek, delegates to the Multiparty Conference of internal parties are meeting to try and thrash out plans for an interim or transitional government as an alternative to United Nations Resolution 435 on Namibia's independence. While SWAPO continues its guerrilla war against the South African presence, other internal parties under the guidance of South Africa are trying to set up their own scenario and they are due to meet the South African president, P.W. Botha, next week, but the exercise has caused splits in some of the internal parties. From Windhoek, Gwen Lister reports.

[Begin recording] The plan provides for an 8-man ministers council, a 61-member national assembly, and a 16-member constitutional council. Delegates added that the interim government would be autonomous, taking over the functions presently held by the administrator general, but the portfolios of defense, security, and foreign affairs would remain with South Africa. They confirmed, too, that the administrator general would be recalled and that the interim government would be answerable only to the South African state president. The leader of the faction of South-West African National Union, Moses Katjiuongua, has been tipped as the new prime minister. Both Dirk Mudge, the chairman of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, and Andreas Shipanga of the SWAPO-Democrats introduced a note of caution, saying that agreement had not been reached yet, but other sources in the MPC were confident that some form of compromise concerning consensus would be arrived at. The interim government would be composed entirely of the six member parties of the MPC. While opposition parties to the MPC are cautious in their condemnation, at this stage most agree that the interim government was designed as an alternative to the settlement in terms of the Resolution 435. [end recording]

SOUTH AFRICA

Crocker-R.F. Botha Talks Cover Cubans in Angola

MB220731 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] South Africa and the United States resumed their negotiations on southern Africa in Cape Town yesterday. Talks between the two delegations headed by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, and the American assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, have been adjourned and it appears as if further talks will be held.

In a statement after the meeting, the two delegations said they had discussed southern Africa's most important issues. On the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola, the American delegation offered some suggestions on a framework for more developments.

The minister of defense, General Magnus Malan, the administrator general of South-West Africa, Dr Willie van Niekerk, and the South African ambassador in Washington, Dr Brand Fourie, were part of the South African delegation. Dr Crocker was assisted by, among others, the American ambassador to South Africa, Mr Herman Nickel.

Huenis Withdraws From Debate on U.S. TV Program

MB220548 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] The minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr Chris Huenis, has said in Cape Town that he is not prepared to take part in tonight's ABC television program, Nightline. Mr Huenis was scheduled to appear on a 4-way debate with a former cabinet minister, Mr Connie Mulder, the chief minister of kwaZulu, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, and the president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, Dr Alan Boesak.

Mr Huenis said in a statement that a panel discussion with these people was unacceptable as he was chairman of the negotiating team which has negotiated with leaders of other population and interested groups on South Africa's constitutional future. He added that it would be extremely irresponsible of him and in conflict with the national interest to participate in a controversial debate which was aimed primary at foreign viewers.

The deputy minister of foreign affairs, Mr Louis Nel, has confirmed that he held discussions in Johannesburg with the ABC Television Network about parts of their Nightline program which were not shown in South Africa. Mr Nel told our parliamentary staff in Cape Town that these parts have been 1-sided and had contained certain factual errors. They did not discuss the debate with representatives of the network.

U.S. TV Program Cites Lack of Change Since 1960

MB220849 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] In the ABC television program NightLine, transmitted in the United States, the general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, Dr Beyers Naude, and the newspaper editor, Mr Percy Qoboza, took issue with the journalist Mr Otto Krause on the nature of the developments in South Africa.

Mr Krause interpreted the current unrest in terms of the tensions imposed by the process of industrialization. Mr Qoboza accused Mr Krause of responding with intellictual claptrap and insensitivity. He said South Africa faced the threat of major and bloody political confrontation. It was Dr Naude's view that death such as those at Uitenhage yesterday were still possible because so little had changed since 1960.

The final section of the program contained an interview with Mrs Winnie Mandela, the wife of the banned leader, Mr Nelson Mandela. Mrs Mandela is also banned in South Africa.

The fifth and final program in the series is to be transmitted in the United States tonight.

Banned Meetings, Violence on Sharpeville Anniversary

Pretoria Meetings Banned

MB201815 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1810 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Johannesburg, March 20, SAPA — Meetings in the Pretoria area to mark the anniversary tomorrow of the Sharpeville shootings on March 21, 1960, have been banned by the chief magistrate of Pretoria.

The chief magistrate, Mr Harold Thompson, said he had prohibited all meetings in his magisterial district in commemoration of Sharpeville between 7 am tomorrow and 7 am on Friday.

Mr Thompson said in a statement:

"I, Harold Elgar Thompson, chief magistrate of the District of Pretoria, have reason to believe that the public peace will be severely endangered and I hereby prohibit, in terms of Article 46 (1) (b) (i) of the Internal Security Act Act 74 of 1972, a meeting scheduled to be held on 21 March, 1985, in the Dutch Reformed Church on the corner of Mofokeng and Sakweng street, Atteridgeville, in commeoration of the so-called Sharpeville massacre of 21 March, 1960 and, also other meetings commemorating the Sharpeville massacre within the Magisterial District of Pretoria with effect from 0700 hrs on 21 March, 1985 until 0700 hrs on March 22, 1985."

18 Killed in Uitenhage

MB220929 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0913 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Pretoria, March 22, SAPA — As countrywide unrest subsided after a night of stonings, arson and police action, the death toll has risen to 18 in Uitenhage, where police shot at a crowd of thousands on the 25th anniversary of Sharpeville.

A police spokesman in Pretoria said 23 people had been admitted to hospital in the Port Elizabeth area, several in a critical condition.

Police said Langa was quiet today, although numerous stoning incidents had occurred through the night and this morning.

10 Arrested in Sharpeville

MB211810 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Unrest flared in Sharpeville today, and 10 youths are to appear in court on Monday on charges of public violence. They were arrested after a stone throwing incident, and streets in Sharpeville were littered with refuse, fallen trees, and burning tires.

In Sebokeng, workers had to walk home as buses were not allowed to enter the township. Kimberly police arrested four youths this morning after an outbreak of unrest in Galeshwe township.

Meanwhile, police on the Witwatersrand have confirmed searches of the homes of members of the Azanian People's Organization, the United Democratic Front, and South African Congress of Students. They could not confirm any detentions.

Unrest Continues

MB221159 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The death toll after the unrest at Langa has risen to 18, with the disclosure by the police headquarters in Pretoria of another death. Police headquarters has also revealed that yesterday's violence at the Galeshuwe township near Kimberley continued this morning, when police fired on a number of rioters who had converged on a shop. A man was slightly injured and taken into custody.

At Sasolburg in the Vaal Triangle, police and private vehicles were stoned and a group of youth had to be dispersed with tear smoke and rubber bullets. They fled to the grounds of a school, where they recongregated and had to be dispersed with bird shot.

In kwaNobuhle, near Uitenhage, renewed violence erupted today, and bird shot had to be used to disperse rioters after a police vehicle had been stoned. Hand grenades were thrown at the offices of the West Rand Development Board in Jabavu in Soweto this morning, but the ensuing explosion caused little damage.

The acting chief magistrate of Uitenhage, Mr (M. Groenewald), has banned all meetings of 10 organizations in the magisterial district of the town until 1600 tomorrow evening. The ban came into effect at 1600 last night.

The organizations affected by the ban include the Uitenhage Youth Congress, the Motor Assembly and Component Workers' Union of South Africa, the Congress of South African Students, the Uitenhage Women's Organization, the Uitenhage Black Civic Organization, and the Azanian People's Organization.

Police Report on Deaths

MB211351 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1348 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Uitenhage, March 21, SAPA — Sixteen people were killed and an unknown number injured when police fired on a crowd of between 3,000 and 4,000 people marching along Meduna road, Langa, on their way to a funeral at 9:15 am today. The dead included adults and youths, men and women.

The police press liaison office for the eastern Ca[illegible], Lieutenant-Colonel Gerrie van Rooyen, said the incident occurred about 1 km from Langa Township.

A Caspir patrol vehicle under the command of Lieutenant J. Fouche was in Meduna Road when the crowd of up to 4,000 marched down Meduna Road on their way to a funeral, apparently to be held in kwaNobuhle.

Col Van Rooyen said the leader, walking in front of the crowd, was dressed in black. The crowd carried stones and half bricks.

Lt Fouche climbed on to the turret of the Caspir and signalled to the crowd to stop. He warned the crowd in both English and Afrikaans not to go any further and to disperse. The Caspir at this stage was about 20 metres from the crowd.

According to Col Van Rooyen, the leader then held his arms high in the air and the crowd surged forward.

Lt Fouche again shouted to the crowd to disperse, and fired into the ground near the leader with an R1 rifle when the crowd kept coming. He ordered some of his men to open fire with R1 rifles and buckshot when his orders were again disobeyed, Col Van Rooyen said. The group then dispersed and ran in all directions, he added.

So far 16 dead have been counted. At least 11 people died on the street and others in the Uitenhage Provincial Hospital. It was not known how many were injured.

More police vehicles arrived soon afterwards and it was believed more shots were fired but that no-one was killed. In order to reach the funeral in Kwanobuhle it was likely the group would have walked through Uitenhage.

Col Van Rooyen said two petrol bombs were found among the dead.

The minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, was being kept fully informed of all developments. "The situation is under control," his liaison officer, Colonel Leon Mellet, said this afternoon.

Eyewitness Disputes Police

MB211338 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Fourteen people have been killed and at least 22 wounded in police action near Uitenhage. Residents of Uitenhage's Langa township say a crowd was marching to a funeral in the nearby township of kwaNobuhle when confronted by police. They say police ordered the crowd to disperse and then opened fire. But, police spokesperson Henry Beck says police were forced to open fire when the crowd began throwing stones.

But official reports of the incident have been contested by eyewitnesses who say police opened fire without provocation. They say police shot people at point blank range. Secretary of the Uitenhage Youth Congress, Steve Vabaza, witnessed the confrontation.

[Begin Vabaza recording] The first police emerged from the hippo [armored personnel carrier] pulling his gun, asked the crowd to disperse, and the crowd told him that they were holding a peaceful march to the funeral, because there was no transport allowed, and the guy started first shot [as head] and a couple of shots were fired and people lay down dead like flies. Later, a couple of ambulances arrived and a couple of security police, and they took stones from the neaby gravel road and put them on the tarred road, as if the people they were killing started throwing them to the police. [end recording]

Law Minister on Deaths

MB211517 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1512 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] House of Assembly, March 21, SAPA — The minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, has announced to the House of Assembly that 17 people were killed and 19 injured when police opened fire on a crowd outside the Langa Township at Uitenhage today. He was given permission by Mr Speaker to make a statement to parliament and said he regretted to have to announce that "a most unfortunate incident took place at about 10 am."

The police had been forced to open fire in self-defence on a crowd of between 3,000 and 4,000.

"The crowd, armed with stones, sticks, petrol bombs and bricks was marching towards Uitenhage on the highway. They were led by a person dressed in black carrying a brick," the minister said.

About a kilometre from Uitenhage a 19-man police unit led by a lieutenant confronted the marchers and the officer climbed onto his vehicle. He told the marchers' leader the march was illegal in terms of the prohibition on open-air gatherings and instructed him to order his people back.

These instructions were ignored and when the crowd advanced to within five metres of the police the commanding officer fired a warning shot into the ground next to the leader.

"It still had no effect and the police were suddenly surrounded and pelted with stones, sticks, and other missiles including petrol bombs," Mr Le Grange said. "The police officer had no alternative but to order fire, in self defence. Three R-1 rifles, and some shotguns were used. The crowd retreated and firing immediately ceased. Six R-1 bullets, 27 shotgun cartridges and 10 pistol shots were fired.

"Eleven people died during the incident while six others died in hospital. Nineteen people were injured. Police later found traces of exploded petrol bombs as well as an unexploded petrol bomb. Fingerprints have been found on the unexploded bomb."

The minister said he was particularly perturbed that notwithstanding the fact that the police and his office had informed the media as quickly as possible after the incident of the correct facts, grossly exaggerated messages which stated police had opened fire with machine guns and that wounded people had been shot dead in cold blood, had been relayed to the media. "This is a calculated distortion of the facts," the minister said.

After reading the statement, Mr Le Grange was aksed by the leader of the opposition, Dr van Zyl Slabbert, what arrangements had been made for funerals in the area today.

The minister said he did not know at that stage what decisions had been taken about the funerals but that he was aware that three funerals were scheduled for today. However, last night attempts were made to postpone the funerals until Sunday so that work today would not be disrupted. The minister said he would give further details later today.

Le Grange Statement

MB211955 Johannebsurg SAPA in English 1948 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Cape Town, March 21, SAPA — The minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, said in Cape Town tonight the crowd police fired on at Uitenhage today had not been a "peaceful crowd on their way to a funeral." He said in a statement to SAPA that many of the people had been armed with stones, sticks, bricks and even petrol bombs.

He added that the commissioner of police, General Johan Coetzee, had emphatically denied that any form of machinegun fire was used during today's incident.

Mr Le Grange's statement said:

"Following the allegations and claims that the crowd of people who had marched on Uitenhage today before being stopped by police had been on their way to a funeral, I wish to state the following:

"On March 20 the magistrate of Uitehage ruled in terms of Section 46 (1) (b) (11) of the Internal Security Act that three funerals which had been planned for today and tomorrow should take place on Sunday, March 24.

"As a result of the ruling, numerous broadcasts to this effect were relayed on the SABC on March 20 during its regional news bulletins, in both official languages, as well as on the Xhosa services.

"A news report to this effect was also printed in the *EASTERN PROVINCE HERALD* this morning and, in addition, police broadcast on the evening of March 20, by means of loudspeakers, messages in the townships of Langa and kwaNobuhle, telling the resident that the funerals could not take place as planned, but on Sunday.

"The next of kin of those who were to be buried were also informed of the magistrate's ruling and in today's *EVENING POST*. Residents are being quoted as having admitted they knew of the ban on the funerals.

"Everything possible was done by the authorities to inform the residents of the black residential areas of Uitenhage of the magistrate's ruling and no funeral took place in the area today.

"The fact that many people were armed with stones, sticks, bricks and even petrol bombs makes it clear that they were not a peaceful crowd of mourners on their way to a funeral.

"The commissioner of police, General Johan Coetzee, has also emphatically denied that any form of machinegun fire was used during today's incident."

Judicial Inquiry Ordered

MB221005 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1003 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Cape Town, March 22, SAPA — A judicial commission is to be appointed immediately to investigate the incident in Uitenhage yesterday in which 17 people were killed and 36 injured. In a statement issued in Cape Town today, the minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, said the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, had accepted a recommendation from him that a judicial commission be appointed immediately by the minister of justice.

Its brief would be to "investigate all the circumstances regarding the incident on 21 March 1985 at Uitenhage where people were killed and injured and to submit a report urgently".

Mr Le Grange said he would make further particulars known as soon as possible.

Judge Named To Investigate

MB221453 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1440 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] An eastern Cape judge, Mr Justice D.D.V. Kannemeyer, was today appointed as chairman and sole memebr of a judicial commisison to investigate yesterday's shootings at uitenhage.

In a statement released in Cape Town, the minister of justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, said Mr Justice Kannemeyer would issue a statement on Monday concerning the venues and dates of sitting of the commission.

People wishing to give evidence before the commission should contact the secretary of the commission via the registrar of the Supreme Court in Grahamstown.

Opposition Leaders React

MB211758 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, has announced to the House of Assembly that 17 people were killed and 36 injured today, when police opened fire on a crowd outside the Langa township at Uitenhage.

Although tension is still running high, it has been calm in the township since early this afternoon.

The unrest situation in the eastern Cape was discussed by the state president Mr P.W. Botha and the leader of the opposition Progressive Federal Party, Dr van Zyl Slabbert in Cape Town this afternoon. Dr Slabbert said in a statement issued after the discussions that he expressed his party's serious concern over the violence to Mr Botha. Dr Slabbert called on the government to start urgently implementing its declared intention concerning blacks. He said a clear declaration to blacks on South African citizenship would go a long way towards cooling emotions. Dr Slabbert called on Mr Botha to do everything possible to defuse what he described as an extremely volatile situation, but stressed that riots and urban unrest were symptomatic of a deeper and more fundamental problem. He said that unemployment, economic austerity, and the breakdown of government policy as far as black urbanization, local government administration, and education were concerned could not be handled through police action alone, but cried for political and social action.

The New Republic Party's spokesman on law and order, Mr Vause Raw, expressed deep regret at the loss of life and injury in the latest incidents of violence, and called for an immediate inquiry into the incident. He said in a statement in Cape Town that no state could allow mob rule to disrupt the country and to threaten life and property. He said it was the duty of all South Africans to do everything possible to help restore peace and normality.

Further Opposition Comment

MB220743 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] In Cape Town all opposition parties have denounced the police action, and the opposition Progressive Federal Party leader, Frederik Van zyl Slabbert, had urgent talks with State President P.W. Botha. Here is Patrick Kalz:

[Begin recording] After his meeting with the state president, Dr Slabbert said he had urged him to make every effort to defuse the situation. In particular, he said, police involvement for the time being should be limited to the absolute minimus so that provocative action on either side could be avoided.

Labor Party law and order Spokesman (Peter Mock) said the police action could not be condoned as it was institutionalized violence. (Rangi Nobaab), the National People's Party spokesman on justice, said he felt it most desolating and revolting. From the anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre there had been yet another massacre. [end recording]

Slabbert on Inquiry

MB221203 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1112 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Cape Town, March 22, SAPA — The leader of the opposition, Dr Frederick van Zyl Slabbert, said in a statement in Cape Town today he had hoped the terms of reference of a judicial commission into the Uitenhage shootings would be "a little bit wider."

He was commenting on an announcement this morning by the minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, that a commission would immediately be appointed to inquire into yesterday's shootings, in which at least 17 people died and 35 were injured.

Though he welcomed the announcement, he had hoped its terms of reference would include other areas of the Eastern Cape where unrest has occurred.

"But this is in any case a very necessary development," Dr Slabbert said. "I hope it will assist in defusing that situation."

PFP's Suzman Comments

MB221216 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] A delegation of PFP [Progressive Federal Party] parliamentarians is in the Uitenhage area to look into the circumstances surrounding the shootings. The party's member of Parliament with responsibility for human rights issues, Helen Suzman, talks with Capital Said Katalia:

[Begin recording] [Suzman] There are conflicting stories, one from minister of law and order obviously given to him by the police, and we have had a number of statements from local inhabitants who were present and the various statements conflict, I must tell you. So we are trying to get to the bottom of this, but what we really need is a proper fact-finding commission with evidence taken, headed by a judge.

[Katalia] In your view, was the police action warranted?

[Suzman] Firepower is supposed to be used as a last resort. It was used as a first resort in this incident. There was no use of teargas, and there was no use of even, as I understand, rubber bullets. [end recording]

SACC Rejects Police Version

MB221101 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1046 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Johannesburg, March 22, SAPA — The South African Council of Churches could not accept the official version of yesterday's shooting in the Uitenhage township of Langa and called for a full, impartial inquiry, Dr Beyers Naude, the SACC general secretary, said in a statement in Johannesburg today.

"The SACC condemns the killings by the police of those taking part in a funeral procession in Langa, Uitenhage, yesterday," Dr Naude said in the statement.

"The horror of this tragic occurance must be seen by all in South Africa, as well as the world at large, as yet another unfortunate mirror image of the reality of our sick society.

"Amid words of concern from a polite white community and bland unrealised promises of change by politicians, we are at bottom a society that repretitively refusing the conference table, still turns to the bullet as solution of the ills that apartheid has spawned.

"That this should have happened on the anniversary of Sharpeville, 25 years later, is evidence enough of this. A blind eye can discern that we are rushing pell mell into disaster. The most naive amongst us can see that apartheid is the cause.

"How much longer must our people suffer? How many more will be forced into violence in their striving for justice? How many more, black or white, will have to die before apartheid is dismantled?

"On the strength of reports received by us of what actually transpired the SACC cannot accept the version and the reasons given by the authorities for the killings which have occured. It calls for a full impartial public investigation into this matter.

"We offer our Christian sympathy to the families of the bereaved and to the injured. In the name of God we call for calm and an end to the killing," the statement said.

Catholic Bishops Urge Inquiry

MB220954 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0923 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Johannesburg, March 22, SAPA — The Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference [SACBC] has called for an immediate and independent inquiry into the deaths of 18 people outside Uitenhage yesterday. In a statement to SAPA, the SACBC said they called on all South Africans to show their grief by observing a day of mourning for all those killed.

"The bitter irony is that little short of a massacre has taken place on this sad day of national mourning for the victims of the 1960 Sharpeville shootings. The police action has left the SACBC numb with shock and despair. We feel that no amount of provocation — if indeed there was any — can justify such bloodshed. Indeed the shootings can only strengthen the argument of those who give little credence to the government's talk of reform."

The SACBC said according to their information from church workers in the area, people were walking peacefully — empty handed — from Langa to kwaNobuhle township and not to Uitenhage itself when the confrontation took place.

"We have been informed that people were on their way to church in kwaNobuhle to keep a vigil for their dead. The people were not violent nor were they singing when the police ordered them to disperse."

The statement said the SACBC had been told that police had opened fire and shot at the crowd indiscriminately. Later church workers had not been allowed into the wards of the hospital in Uitenhage to administer to the injured and dying. A fire engine had been called to the scene of the shootings and no journalists had been allowed into the area until later.

"Because of the gravity of the situation and the dispute over the police action, we call for an immediate and independent inquiry into the incident," the SACBC said.

Azapo Reacts

MB211834 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1734 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Johannesburg, March 21, SAPA — The Azanian People's Organisation [Azapo], reacting to the Uitenhage deaths, said in a statement to SAPA tonight that the fruit of foreign investment, constructive engagement and reform talk "is nothing but more bullets."

Azapo compared the "massacre" to Soweto 1976 and Sharpeville 25 years ago. "The policy of constructive engagement has strengthened the hand of the rulers to perpetuate violence against black people."

The statement added that those who had been advocating investment in South Africa are calling for "investment in blood and exploitation".

ANC Pledges Revenge

MB221053 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] The ANC says it will avenge the peace killings in Uitenhage.

According to revised police statics, 18 people have died and 23 are injured as a result of yesterday's bloody confrontation between police and residents of Langa township.

An ANC representative in Lusaka says those who rule by violance will be overcome by violance, and that the events at Langa cannot go unpunished.

[Begin ANC representative recording] The ANC and the people of South Africa pledge that these cowardly acts connot go unpunished. [end recording]

Reagan, Shultz Reactions Noted

MB220724 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] President Reagan of the United States has called the Uitenhage incident tragic, but he says there is an element in South Africa that does not want peaceful change. Speaking in a televised news conference from Washington, President Reagan said that allegations that the violence came totally from the police side ignored the fact that there had been rioting going on. There was an element in South Africa that wanted violence in the streets. President Reagan said that it was significant that on the police side, some of those enforcing the law and using guns had been black policemen.

The secretary of state, Mr George Shultz, has condemned the shooting incident at Uitenhage but added that the United States had no plans to change its policies towards South Africa. Testifying before an appropriation sub-committee of the House of Representatives, Mr Shultz said violence as a tactic to break demonstrations was a deplorable tactic, and that he was not prepared in any way to defend it. He added that it would be counterproductive for the United States to throw up its hands and end its economic and diplomatic involvement in South Africa.

The statement said apartheid is not confined to the African Continent alone. He equated the doctrine of Zionism with that of apartheid, which is racism in this continent. Comrade Mugabe said both Zionism and apartheid are the cause of conflict and tension within South Africa and the Middle East, and the doctrines affect the entire world.

Radio Truth Defends BBC 'Panorama' Program

MB211027 (Clandestine) Radio Truth in English to Zimbabwe 0430 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] The BBC "Panorama" program, in which it exposed the atrocities committed by government forces in Matabeleland, came in for some heavy stick from the editor of *THE HERALD*. He rejected the evidence of the camera and called it a campaign by some circles in British politics aimed at demoralizing Zimbabwe's friends abroad. The editor suggested that ZANU-PF should hit back at the British Government and with childish petulance proposed that our president should postpone the acceptance of the new British ambassador's credentials. This calls for a few comments.

In the first place, the editor is clearly ignorant of the fact that unlike its Zimbabwe counterpart, the British Government does not control its media. The BBC is a completely independent corporation and does not take orders from anyone in political circles. This may be difficult for a closed socialist mind to accept, but it is the truth. Whatever the BBC may broadcast is their own affair and is not dictated or influenced by the government. The corporation has established an international reputation for objective and balanced reporting. That reputation is jealously guarded, and the BBC would not jeopardize its worldwide standing by indulging in mischievous or malicious presentation.

We may not always agree with what they have to say, but we respect their integrity. It is presumptuous and ill-mannered therefore for *THE HERALD* editor to suggest that the BBC team falsified the evidence. In this sense, the camera does not lie.

It is all too plain that our local newsman was doing a cover-up job for his political masters. In any country with a free press, the presentation of such devastating evidence of government misrule would have provoked a very different reaction. Representatives of the press would have mobilized en masse to do an in-depth analysis of the situation and would haveindulged in true investigative journalism. Our men are doing just the opposite, and it does not to redound to their credit.

The ZANU-PF regime has done its utmost to prevent the facts of the Matabeleland situation being exposed to the local public and the outside world. They have been aided and abetted by the press. The pleas of missionaries and other church dignatories, including bishops, of social workers, farmers, and traditional leaders for the government to stop the harassment, torture, and murder of defenseless civilians have all been spurned. We will not forget the sneering response of the prime minister who referred to them as a bunch of sanctimonious prelates.

None of the foreign journalists who were taken on a tour of South Matabeleland last year would forget the arrogant and obstructive behavior of government officials and the Army commander. When presented at one point with proof that six bodies had been buried in a shallow grave, he replied with contempt: Six bodies? That is not a massacre!

Apparently, the loss of six precious lives is of no concern. Reactions of this kind from the ruling party and the media fills us with shame. They have stooped very low indeed. In response to the BBC exposure of the truth, they produced a petulant, small-minded suggestion: let the new British ambassador cool his heels for a while in Stanley House. How low could they think, and how pathetic can they be.

Briefs

British Envoy Presents Credentials— The new British high commissioner to Zimbabwe, Mr Ramsay Melhuish, presented his credentials to the president, Comrade Banana, at State House in Harare today. He replaces Mr Michael Ewans, who has already left Zimbabwe for another posting recently. [Text] [*Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 21 Mar 85 MB*]